

**HOCKEY NIGHT IS BACK**

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

JANUARY 23, 1995 \$3.50

**Maclean's**

# HOW BAD CAN IT GET?

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## Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE  
JANUARY 22, 1995 VOL. 106 NO. 4

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Paul Newman delivers a stellar performance in an affecting drama about a small-town newspaperman, Anthony Hopkins and Brad Pitt celebrate a maturing breed of teenage male.

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## How bad can it get?

**26** The sight of 26,000 people lining up to apply for auto company jobs shook the nation last week. It was bleak evidence of the despair about finding good work. Then came a crisis in confidence: The Canadian dollar plunged to its lowest level in 30 years and interest rates soared. Anxious Canadians wondered what had gone so desperately wrong.



## Hockey night is back

**42** The NHL takes to the ice this week, 112 days late and bearing the scars of a bitter labor dispute. But most players, owners and fans are happy to put the past behind them in anticipation of a short but sweet season.

## Keanu's excellent adventure

**52** Since his early days as an actor in Toronto, Keanu Reeves has aspired to be a performer of range and depth. But he has been consigned mainly to idiosyncratic roles—or has turned in one-dimensional portrayals. And his Harriet in Winnipeg demonstrates that his skills are not quite up to Shakespearean stuff.



# Is Canada A Basket Case?

**A**ll right, already. We got the message. Ouch! It hurts. Unk!

The audience is listening. Canada, indeed, has to do something about its debt. Among the industrialized nations, only Italy has a worse record. Together, Ottawa and the provinces owe \$700 billion—and rising—and taxpayers have lost about 40 per cent of the funds to cover it off. And about one-third of all federal revenues goes to paying off the annual interest on the borrowing.

In an editorial last week, headlined "Rebooting Canada," the *Rail Star Journal* concluded that Canada is "faring well" in the current global economic crisis. The editorial was signed by "an honest member of the Third World in the unpopularity of its debt problem." In contrast, the *Journal* lambasted critics on Premier Ralph Klein's Alberta, where, after a 20-year credit slash in government spending, the economy grew last year by four per cent and unemployment has dropped 1.7 per cent from nine per cent. The message from the magazine's editorial was clear: Canada's economy and needs are good.

At the same time, there also is a need for more perspective than was conveyed by the *Journal's* avalanche press. Whether John Flax, interviewed last by CBC's *Newsweek*, himself concluded that "Canada is not on the verge of bankruptcy. Canada is as generous as generous. Canada has to give its budget in order." Is it a basket case? "It wouldn't go that far,"

The writer's culture taste was more appropriate than the hoisted words on paper. True, the potential for a full-blown crisis is here. But whether it actually happens is still within Obama's control. The outcome will be



## Sovereignist view

Quebec's relationship with Canada will not be resolved until either the federalists or the sovereignists win a referendum with at least a two-thirds majority ("This Is the Year," From the Editor, Jan. 30). Anything less and the losing side can still legitimately claim to be a political force. Quebec's might be better to focus less on the referendum result and more on the province's way 50 per cent of Quebec francophones want their own country. As of now, you seem content to simply poke holes in everything that the sovereignists do and say. This type of journalism contributes nothing to helping English-speaking Canadians understand the issue.

Robert Powell,  
Toronto

Premier Jacques Parizeau would take Quebec out of Confederation with or without maintaining Canadian citizenship, Canadian currency, Canadian economic links or Canadian-supported membership in international arrangements. In the event of a separatist referendum win, he would seek legitimacy not to the Canadian Constitution but by international support. The rest of Canada could react by negotiating as best they can or by sending Quebec back to the bottom line.

Sean Blakemore,  
Montreal

## Contemptible

Dallas Gault's review of Jack Pickersgill's memoir, *Servant Canada: White* ("The ultimate insider," Books, Dec. 30), is the picture of Canadians who hold their politicians in utter contempt. Pickersgill recounts it all: the backroom politics, the manipulation of constituents, the jettisoning of the top-ranking tough-looking and the privileged thingy servant in the provincial Campaign 84-85. Here's a national treasure, I think he's something else again.

John Derry,  
Surreyville P.E.I.

## Cabling conviction

How annoying to be reading Barbara Aronof's latest charges that we Canadians seem prone to a loss of moral fibre, that our founding cultures have become corrupt and that we show the conviction of dead fish next of the time



Parizeau in the national assembly: why Quebecers want their own country

"[Bold lessons from a runaway civil war]" Column, Jan. 10, while at the same moment working on TV, Colin Watson, president and CEO of Rogers Cable Systems Ltd., cag in head, apologizing for his company's mistake.

Walter Bantier,  
Windsor, B.C.

somehow lonely or incomplete. Don't forget that many Canadians choose to remain celibate until marriage. This does not mean they are "starved," it simply means they have chosen to keep sexual activity within the context of marriage.

Darren McElroy,  
Woodstock, N.B.

## Monstrous odds

I smiled at your piece on the London bookmaker's odds on Elton smashing landing his UFO into Loch Ness and hitting Nessie ("Far odd long syne," Column Notes, Jan. 16). I wondered who would be so mad as to bet on a 14-million-to-1 long shot, and then I realized the irony. Those are the odds on winning the Big One in the GAA.

John Van Popta,  
Metzville, Ont.

## Polling results

Maybe I am just another cranky Canadian, but I object to an apparent trend for subscription poll data for editorial content ("Looking inward," Column, Jan. 25). I only write to your magazine for its very worthy while columns: social features and local commentaries to the news. But polls, gosh. They are a misnomer of (a) boring number crunching. Who cares, anyway?

A. W. Gohier,  
Edmonton, Ont.

In your analysis of the sex lives of Canadians, you referred to Torontoans who had not had sex with anyone over the past year as "starved for physical affection." In making this statement, you seem to assume that adults who are not sexually active are

## Beyond reproach

Peter C. Newman did not know Belleville city councillor Wally Dever and shamelessly moans his death (*The Nation's Business*, Jan. 23). I did know Wally Dever. He was my brother and I loved him dearly. Newman implies that if Wally Dever were alive he would launch campaign promises as he took that's what politicians do. I know the only thing Wally Dever ever broke was the hearts of his family the day he died.

Barbara (Doreen) Smith,  
Belleville, Ont.

## Ivory tower

The chairman of the board of governors at the University of Calgary notes that "universities across Canada are only beginning to grapple with the complex issues of scholarship integrity" ("Academic integrity," Letters, Jan. 10). I shudder to think how much longer it might take. They have had a conference or so to address this issue, which is, after all, fundamental to the concept of a university.

R. IF. Conway,  
Ottawa

Students without money, now, the letters say to attend the present state. Please send your address and telephone number. Write: Letter to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, 177 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5H 2B4. Fax: (416) 593-7738. Email: J.K. maclean@compuserve.net

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# OPENING NOTES



## HAPPILY EVERY AFTER?

Whether the fire of the beleaguered British monarchy, one thing seems certain: the woman when Prince Charles leaves a liability to live happily ever after lives. Camilla Parker Bowles topped *Time* magazine's 25th annual list of the worst-devised women in the world. "She looked in the mirror and watched it crack," the self-proclaimed "hubristic arbiter crackled his words. Thus, Parker Bowles, 47, and her husband, King Andrew Parker Bowles, 56, announced that their 25-year marriage was over. Royal watchers were placing bets on the likelihood that Charles, 36, would divorce Diana, the Princess of Wales, from whom he separated in 1992 after 11 years of marriage. An authorized biography published last year, *The Prince of Wales*, asserted that Charles and Camilla had im-

ploded in three affairs over 25 years. Camilla's alleged affair with Prince Charles was not the worst of his. In 1979, he seduced Queen Elizabeth II, then 39-year-old Diana—then, reveal that Parker Bowles will never become queen. Diana is determined to have her sons, princes William and Harry, keep their distance from the woman she calls "the Bitch." "The one thing that would drive Diana into a fury," and a friend, "would be Charles and Camilla playing happy families with the boys." Indeed, some speculate that the Queen might see her as an intruder. Charles is ecstatic. He is right to be. Charles, polishing Prince William, 12, as he's "That someone would suit Diana as a foe, with Parker Bowles' former cast as the wicked stepmother."



Parker Bowles: Diana (above); Charles took the role of the wicked stepmother

## BATTLE OVER THE B-WORD

The new-born U.S. House of Representatives, under Speaker Newt Gingrich, was not a week old. Neither was a media debate over five words that did: *Y's*. House Speaker Newt Gingrich's mother said her son's opinion of First Lady Hillary Clinton ("She's a bitch") was not a week old. "I would say Hillary's a bitch, and I mean that with all admiration," said writer Deborah Davis, author of *Getting in Touch with Your Inner Bitch*. Then, a new scene was captured: everything. Last week, *The New York Times* published First Lady statements—including "I think I am naive and dumb" about politics—from a White House lunch with a dozen national reporters, including the *Time* Martin Scorsese.

Other teachers in school that Hillary's words were off the record. And he had to be a reporter scooped. New York Post gossip columnist Cindy Adams decried Clinton in print. "Days ago, Clinton Chang and Monica Glavinich inspired Hillary Clinton Clinton. Yesterday, *The New York Times* smothered her." Adams also called the *Times* as "The Grey Lady who is clearly suffering from a seizure." But Adams refused from applying the B-word to her cast. In some cases, reported Richard Lohr in *The Washington Post*, "it's a con- fusion." And a full scene was still days away.



The Clinton's wife?

## OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

Since he became Governor General in 1990, Scott Brashinsky has inspired 699 Canadians with the Order of Canada. Last week, he performed the ceremony for the last time before he leaves office next month. And although the event was infused with pomp and circumstance, it was also tender made for the Order's newest officer. Traditionally, recipients are honored at Rideau Hall in Ottawa or at the governor general's other official residence, La Citadelle in Quebec City. But Brashinsky made an exception for former Ontario attorney general Neil Scott—who joined the Order during a special ceremony in Toronto last May. Scott—a member of David Thomson's Liberal government from 1985 to 1990—suffered a stroke that affected his speech and caused partial paralysis. A colleague, lawyer Ian Baird, said Scott's fighting spirit made the occasion especially moving. Added Lohr: "This event was an important indication that he is still a part of society."



Scott Brashinsky, fighting spirit

## PASSAGES

**CHARGED** Publish Shubert, 36, a daughter of then Black Muslim leader Malcolm X, with plotting to kill her father's rival, Louis Farrakhan, in Minneapolis. Malinin was accused down at age 36 in her presence in 1995, while making a speech in New York City—and her family has long accused the radical, now living in the Nation of Islam, of mistreating the members. Authorities say Shubert hired a hitman to kill Farrakhan, who eventually—delivered then Nation of Islam leader, Elijah Muhammad, against Malcolm X's religious teachings. Shubert denies the charges.



## WHO OWNS JOHN CABOT?

A event that happened nearly 500 years ago is at controversy in Atlantic Canada. In 1497, the Anglo-Italian navigator John Cabot arrived in North America—although no one can agree on the actual site. Both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia claim the honor and are arguing the celebratory through 1997 to commemorate his landing. The Newfoundland government has set up the Cabot 500 Corporation to coordinate the yearlong festivities. Meanwhile, a replica of Cabot's ship, the *Matthew*, is under construction in Bristol, England, the city from which he originally sailed in 1497. It will cruise the Atlantic and land at Bonaville on June 24, 1997, before going on to Cape North. The coronation of Cabot's exact landing site may never be answered—but that should not stop a few lively celebrations at the event.



Cabot's celebration

**DIED** British comedian Peter Cook, 57, hailed as one of the godfathers of contemporary satire, of a gastroenteritis heartburn. In London. Along with Dudley Moore, Jonathan Miller and Alan Bennett, Cook formed the internationally acclaimed 1960s comedy revue *Beyond the Fringe*. In 1961, he founded the satirical magazine *Punch* and remained its publisher until his death.

**DIED** Writer Kathleen Tynan, 57, who wrote a critically acclaimed biography of her late husband, powerful British drama critic Kenneth Tynan, of cancer, in London. Her edited collection of Tynan's letters was published last fall. The daughter of legendary Canadian journalist Matthew Tynan and the sister of CBC correspondent David Tynan, Tynan also wrote the screenplay for *Angels in America* based on her novel.

**DIED** Former world middleweight boxing champion (1970-1971) Carlos Monzon, 37, in an accidental while drinking beer from a workable leave in the prison where he was serving an 11-year sentence for killing his ex-wife after she fled of a balcony during a fight near Santa Fe, Argentina.

**DIED** Former Laskin Courtroom president Peter Joseph Lawrence, 58, in Las Vegas after a Red Power. He led Communist groups for more than two decades before reportedly leading in 1975 the former governor led by his half-brother, Prince Souverain Phoenix.

**DIED** Lloyd Bowry, 92, known as Canada's father of baseball in Toronto. As executive director of the World League of Canada, Bowry led the eight-year "war" league battle in the Supreme Court of Canada and through a barely successful action that led to the shutdown of Metropolitan Toronto's water supply in 1983.

## BEST-SELLERS

### FICTION

1. *The Celestine Prophecy*, James Redfield (2)
2. *Pollyanna's Secret*, Anne Mearns (3)
3. *Open House*, John Grisham (3)
4. *John Grisham's*, Anne Mearns (3)
5. *Paula*, Ann Duffley (4)
6. *A Discovery of Witches*, Judy Blume (4)
7. *The Counting Man*, Andrew Davis (5)
8. *Jeannette*, Barbara Kingsolver (5)
9. *The Little Women*, Alice Walker (6)
10. *Original Sin*, P. J. James (6)
11. *A Day of the Golem*, John Grisham (6)

### NONFICTION

1. *On the Pains*, David Gribble (2)
2. *The Warren Buffett Way*, Roger Ibbotson (3)
3. *Discovering the Threshold of Sleep*, Peter J. Smith (3)
4. *Food, Sugar, and Fat*, Peter J. Smith (3)
5. *Disappearance*, Paul H. Smith (3)
6. *Annals of the World*, Peter J. Smith (3)
7. *Annals of the World*, Peter J. Smith (3)
8. *Annals of the World*, Peter J. Smith (3)
9. *Annals of the World*, Peter J. Smith (3)
10. *Annals of the World*, Peter J. Smith (3)

## POP MUSIC

The previous in Canada, several working in late office hours during the seven days that ended on Jan. 12 (to include number of appearances showing)

1. *Dave and Buster* (1997) ... 2,227,000
2. *Billie Jean* (1997) ... 1,900,000
3. *Disappearance* (1997) ... 1,750,000
4. *The Jingles Book* (1997) ... 1,500,000
5. *Little Women* (1997) ... 1,400,000
6. *Monument* (1997) ... 1,300,000
7. *Disappearance* (1997) ... 1,200,000
8. *The Jingles Book* (1997) ... 1,100,000
9. *Little Women* (1997) ... 1,000,000
10. *Ready to Wear* (1997) ... 900,000

## KEYBOARD CLUES

When people talk face-to-face or on the telephone, their voices help convey their message. But in the sterile, soundless world of electronic mail, it can sometimes be difficult to determine the emotional tone of a statement. To overcome this problem, hundreds of electronic communications known as "emojis" are moving in cyberspace. The original smiley—composed of a colon, a dash and a close-bracket symbol—and the hundreds of symbols created since then, are "drawn" by the sender using the keys available on the typical keyboard. Residents get the picture by using their keys to the left, in this case to view the original smiley.

Now, analysts are also being used to create accents or geographic origins. A sampling:

- :-) a cynical grin
- :\*) a smirk
- :-7 skepticism
- :\*) a wink
- :-4 weeping
- :-\* to whistle
- :-4 a yawn
- :-4 tongue in cheek
- :-D laughing out loud, or joking
- :-( frowning
- :-P Ronald Reagan or Bush for U.S. accents
- :-P Mike Dwyer (Toronto)
- :-P the Pope (Rome)
- :-4 a vampire (Transylvania)
- :-4 a baseball player (North America)
- :-P laughing out loud, or joking
- :-P a driver (Canada)

Sarah's BARBARA WICKENS



transformative time—no epoch when, at least, all things indeed are possible. There is a self given, before about the subject, and an implicit dividing line drawn. Either you believe in computers and will be saved, or you will not for the consumers.

For and while, the good news is preached. Mitch Raport, who designed the renowned Lotus 1-2-3 program, talks stoutly about the computer's potential for enhancing Jeffersonian style, participatory democracy. David Colander of Yale University discusses computers with "emotion" in his book *The Man in the Machine*. Frank Tipler, a respected professor at Tulane University who wrote *The Physics of Immortality*, argues that by the time Earth supports its seven billion years, computers will re-create the dead through a kind of cosmic imaging and assure life everlasting. Fancy the idea? Enter the password. Hallelujah.

Even Newt Gingrich, conservative Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, has suggested tax breaks for poor people who buy laptops so that information, too, can afford to cross the information superhighway. Sounds swell. But hard-core Americans should not expect enabling legislation anytime soon. Remember, this is the same grizzled Newt who had himself well over seven and a half million votes to orphanage. Could it be that in Gingrich's so-called world, machines count more than motherhood?

Speaker Gingrich and everyone else should settle down, sign off, take a breath. The computer is a grand invention with a million splendid applications, but it is not set to unlock the secrets of the human spirit or fashion a "new man" for the next century, or guarantee our reservations for heaven. Those who argue that computers make information instantly available—and, therefore, necessarily make enlightenment—forget that people want first-hand information and, by the way, that plenty already is in circulation, and that we often are a pretty steady lot, just the same. Besides, it is not as though only certified material will flow through the Internet. Sure, you will be able to call up a quick hit of Socrates. You'll likely be able to get the latest scandal spread, as well.

And what about literature? Egonie Sven Elmerts, author of *The Gutenberg Epiphany*, claims that the drop, transitive, continuous association with various eras is under cut by the high-bay nature of electronics—the "perpetual present" of the impulse, the beep, the flicking cursor. Pulling Shakespeare onto the Web is a catch. Treating the Bard with more respect than Saper-Martin-Brown, a modern master.

So let us not go too glibly into the next discussion. Reflect upon John Cardinal O'Connor, who despite high hopes for computers, writes his newspaper column long-hand and on-line, re-created instead. When addressing Friday masses, O'Connor replied by radio while an aide held his notes on the system. Electronic devices may be glorious, but the hand and angle still want to sing.

BY FRED BRUNING

By virtue of his job as archbishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of New York City, John Cardinal O'Connor naturally has an interest in matters extraneous to it as it was not surprising when he shopped for five million departed the other day for a brief visit to cyberspace.

Yes, O'Connor went "on-line," as the chapbooks answered questions posed by users of the computer information service called Prodigy. To some, organized religion may seem esoteric and incapable of adjusting to modern realities, but the complaint obviously does not hold in that portion of the realm overseen by O'Connor. The archbishop was reaching the people where they live, right there in the vast beyond of Prodigy paradise.

Little of note transpired during O'Connor's inaugural voyage. Questions were responded. No one let by the kind of nasty comments known to the e-mail crowd as "flames," and while one young man who identified himself as gay and an aide noted that he felt "persecuted" by the church, participants mostly were interested in talk show trivia. How many times had the cardinal met the Pope? Who was O'Connor's favorite author? Was he "computer literate"?

A master at public relations who has hosted a television program, writes a column in the archdiocesan newspaper and works the media better than most politicians, O'Connor said at one point that he thought the computer had considerable potential for parish outreach. "I believe the church can use anything that helps us talk to the people," he remarked, according to an account in *The New York Times*. "We're not talking to the machines. They're helping us talk to the people."

Those are words sure to delight the marketing boys at Apple and IBM, but one must help not blink at the archbishop's analysis.

Fred Bruning is a writer with *Newsday* in New York.

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# WHO

IS NOT

YOU KNOW IT'S

# WHAT

YOU KNOW.



THE IDEA OF GETTING

SOMEWHERE IN THE BUSINESS

WORLD BECAUSE YOU KNOW

IT'S "SECRET DEEPS"™—

WHEREVER AND WHATEVER

IT'S ALL

THEN WHERE—AND ENDING

BECAUSE YOU

Today's businesses at least the really good ones put the emphasis on using your brain. Because some businesses say that a good idea can come from anywhere and some businesses

really believe it and set themselves up so that good ideas—wherever they come from—can be shared.

Those aforementioned really good businesses may have private offices and walls but where it really counts—attitudinally, technologically and iteratively—minds are open, people are interacting and like the neighborhoods we remember, people help each other out the best they can when they can.

Some of this is because of computer technology and new technologies for communication but most of it comes from people realizing that

in an important job on the credenza doesn't make an executive more powerful. Our business applications are designed along these lines of thought. For example, Microsoft® Office is a family of software business tools designed to share information and work seamlessly together. Charts and files can easily be imported from one application to another. And each is easy to use because once you've learned one application, you can use them all.

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## The federalist forces gather steam in the fight for Quebec

**T**hey were all on hand, a glittering array of political heavyweights from both the federal and the Quebec Liberal parties, jammed inconspicuously into a modest hall in downtown St-Henri, within sight of downtown Montreal's swarming skyscrapers, they gathered last week to welcome a new star in Quebec's ideological firmament. And when she finally arrived to a boisterous round of applause, Lucienne Robillard did not disappoint. The former provincial cabinet minister graciously accepted the unwelcome nomination to run an Liberal standard-bearer in the newly vacated riding of St-Henri/West



Robillard, waving a battle against 'one man's abortion'

# THE 'NO' OFFENSIVE

mont to next month's federal byelection. There she branched, in both fluent French and English as well as possible Hebrew, a stinging attack on those who want to take Quebec out of Canada. The upcoming referendum is, she charged, "not just a discussion that directly threatens everything we've spent the past 128 years building as a nation and risks transforming us into foreigners in our own country."

It was exactly what the assembled crowd of 500 Liberal adherents, including a swarm of ministers, federal ministers and provincial members of the National Assembly, wanted to hear. Robillard, once regarded as one of the most outspokenly anti-Quebecers of Liberal Party premier Daniel Johnson's Liberal government, is widely expected to play a leading role in the impending battle to defeat Premier Jacques Parizeau's plans to lead the province to independence. And her nomination last week not only signalled new wings in the 11th-hour shuffling of federalist forces, but also offered a hint of the emerging strategy the federalists plan to employ. "I say no to independence," declared Robillard. "I



Robillard: 'other options are still there'

say no to the status quo. I say yes to change."

Her remarks were echoed by other federalist voices that spoke out forcefully last week. Addressing the same nationalist meeting, federal Finance Minister Paul Martin, who represents the Montreal riding of LaSalle/Erard, said that the burden of proof to break away with sovereignty falls on those who want Quebecers will have a better standard of living in an independent country.

The informal cause received another significant boost when Michel Bélanger, a high-profile lawyer, businessman and former top civil servant in Quebec City, was named chairman of the provincial Liberal party's referendum committee the day before Robillard's nomination. In announcing Bélanger's appointment as head of the body that will present federalist forces in Quebec for the upcoming referendum, Johnson could scarcely contain his delight. Bélanger, co-chairman with Jean Charest of the commission that explored Quebec's political and constitutional future four years ago, is one of the province's most credible federalist figures. Not only does he rarely believe Compromis, now the province

minister in Parizeau's Parti Québécois government, but he also gives the federalist common heritage. "It was a real coup to bring a tremendously capable guy like Bélanger," says Montreal broadcaster Jean Lapierre, the former Liberal who helped launch the Bloc Québécois. "It's a victory and it will help to keep the debate out of the gutter."

In his first public pronouncement as federal

man of the Liberal's referendum effort, Bélanger gave an indication of what lies ahead. Like Robillard, he urged Quebecers to vote against Parizeau's draft sovereignty bill to avoid the prospect of "becoming foreigners in Canada." He also insisted that a No vote in the referendum will not close any doors to Quebec's future but, rather, keep them open. "What is interesting in Canada is that the status quo is not carved in stone," he said. "By saying No, you have only said 'No' to something. You said 'Yes' to see how all the other options are still there."

It is a theme that Johnson will be pursuing as well in the near future, perhaps as soon as this week when he is scheduled to travel to Toronto to meet with Queen's Prince Charles and address a joint meeting of the Canadian and Empire clubs. The Ontario visit is one of several Johnson is planning outside Quebec in the coming months. He hopes to meet with as many provinces as possible before the referendum in an effort to demonstrate to Quebecers that there are alternatives in the rest of Canada to change the existing federal structure, even if the federal government is likely to resist the attempt. While there is as yet no specific agenda, members of Johnson's campaign privately indicate that he is working on meetings with premiers who are considered receptive to Quebec's demands for expanded provincial powers—particularly British Columbia's Mike Harcourt and New Brunswick's Frank McKenna.

Late last week, the Quebec Liberals announced the creation of yet another party committee—this one to define a new constitutional platform for the party. One theme of the goal was to demonstrate that the upcoming referendum will not offer a choice only between independence and the status quo but, rather, independence and a system that is in

the process of almost continual change. "The Liberals' overall strategy will become clearer as the party's general election program is set for Jan. 27. "That's when the Liberal program is likely to coalesce," says Lapierre.

In the meantime, Parizeau intends to devote much of his time in the ongoing effort to shore up international support for the possibility of Quebec's independence. A major step in that direction will occur during a visit he is scheduled to make to Paris from Jan. 14 to 17. While in France, the premier will have the opportunity to lobby not only French leaders, but also the representatives of other French-speaking nations who are planning to hold a summit in the French capital at the same time. Among the French strategists, Parizeau is considered the most likely to succeed in international recognition, particularly if Parizeau proceeds with his stated plans to unilaterally declare Quebec independence one year after a majority votes Yes in the referendum.

Before that occurs, however, Parizeau needs to win wariness away. Until last week, events were unfolding in the PQ's favor, fuelled by the recruitment of such prominent former federal Tory cabinet ministers as Marcel Masse and Maurice Stramiani to chair some of the 14 regional committees that will begin public hearings on Parizeau's draft sovereignty bill early in February. But these committees are now in place, aware of their security in the hands of individuals with pronounced separatist approaches, if not outright supporters of the PQ's cause. But there are new signs of life in the federalist camp. As the nomination of Robillard and the appointment of Bélanger clearly indicated, Parizeau's march towards sovereignty will not go unchallenged.

DARREY CAMERON in Montreal

## Can Quebec separate?

In the separatist gospel as preached by the Parti Québécois, there is a central article of faith. It maintains that Quebec independence can be achieved quickly and peacefully by means of a referendum. Persuade enough Quebecers to support the idea, say the PQ leaders, and the rest of Canada will acquiesce, even to the point of accepting Quebec's existing borders, currency, treaties and citizenship rights. Last week, however, all of these common assumptions were challenged in a hard-hitting report from Toronto C.D. Howe Institute. The 80 strategy is "a high-risk political gamble," wrote the report's author, Osgoode Hall Law School professor Patrick Monahan, adding that it could "provoke a constitutional, political and economic crisis the likes of which Canadians have never seen."

In the 10-page study, Monahan attempts to unravel the tangled legal ramifications of the independence initiative launched by Premier Jacques Parizeau. And in so doing, he arrives at some startling conclusions. If Quebecers embrace the province's draft bill on sovereignty in the referendum that is expected later this year, Monahan envisions the outbreak of "a disastrous contest for supremacy" between Ottawa and Quebec City for control of Quebec territory. The rivalry would usher in a "period of chaos," marked by "civil disorder" and "economic dislocation in parts of the country that would be far greater than that experienced in

any recession or even the Great Depression of the 1930s."

The main problem, in Monahan's view, lies in Parizeau's stated intention to unilaterally declare independence within a year of winning a majority vote in the upcoming referendum. Since there is little likelihood of Quebec and the rest of Canada reaching an agreement on the terms of secession that quickly, Ottawa would be forced to try to thwart the move, not in anger but as a result of simple self-interest.

In the first place, there is the matter of who would negotiate the terms of secession with Quebec. Monahan points out that there is no one with the "legal, moral and political authority" to speak for the rest of Canada. But even if that vexatious problem could be quickly resolved, the issues on the table are far complex, not least basic questions over dividing the country's \$550-billion debt and the fate of Quebec's aboriginal and anglophone populations. "It seems inconceivable that Canada would simply acquiesce," Monahan argues. "Rather than accept Quebec's unilateral declaration as a *fait accompli*, Canadian leaders would contest its validity and attempt to force the Quebec government to back down."

Not surprisingly, Parizeau was quick to dismiss the study as an exercise in fear-mongering. "At no point, someone will predict Armageddon," he said, "and the following one will say, 'What can I say that would be more exciting or chaotic than that—the comic book being predicted.'" It was a colorful turn of phrase—and one that carefully avoided the subject at hand.

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## Part-time job, full-time pay

Critics say that Claude Bennett works too much

By some standards at least, Claude Bennett works too hard. Bennett, now in his second career as chairman of the federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., is almost always in the office. When he is not in the office, he is travelling for his job. Since his appointment by former prime minister Brian Mulroney in December, 1990, Bennett has put in more than 1,800 days in the service of the corporation—an impressive total for a person holding what the government considers to be a part-time job. The CMHC has a full-time president, Eugene Flaherty, who acts as its chief executive officer, and Bennett directs his job as basically public relations for the corporation. But his is not a thankless task.

Bennett, a longtime minister in the Conservative government of Bill Davis, receives not only an honorarium of \$6,000 a year and a membership in the Le Cercle Universitaire club in Ottawa, but \$270 for each day he works. Last year alone, that added up to just over \$200,000 in pay—plus a total of \$447,000 since his appointment four years ago. Bennett also travels extensively for the CMHC, more so the older he gets. In the 13-month period ending in January, 1994, for example, he received \$86,323 in travel claims. He is not the only holder of a part-time position to turn his appointment into a full-time occupation with a full-time salary. Canada Ports Corp. chairman Arnold Masters recently came under criticism for a similar arrangement. Federal officials say they have to power to force such appointees to work fewer days for less money. But Robert MP Blaney MP says his party's perspective critic says the situation is open to abuse. "When you go into a part-time position without a luncheon on the number of days," he said, "the only motivation for the individual and the people making the appointment is to let him work as many days as he wants." The



Bennett: Some workdays might be better spent.

**"I have tried to  
approach problems  
from a Canadian  
taxpayer's view"**

National Citizens' Coalition, a vocal opponent of government pork-barrelling, also finds the practice despicable. "There is something where the public would think it's not something we're spending a lot of money on because the head office has a part-time staff," said coalition spokesman Jeff Ball. "But then when you find out it's still \$270 a day it seems to be a slight of hand." What angers White even more is that Bennett also receives an annual pension of about \$40,000 as a former member of the Ontario legislature. Said

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White: "He is collecting two salaries."

Benoist, however, insists that there is nothing wrong with his arrangement. He sets his own hours and decides how many days a year he will work. "I accept on behalf of the corporation any opportunity to represent them wherever that might happen to arise," he told Maclean's in an interview last week. According to government documents obtained by Maclean's, in 1994, he took 12 (Benoist billed for 247 days. In 1993, he billed 239 days, which would have given him the equivalent of each weekend off plus another two days. Benoist, 58, works more days than

many people with full-time jobs and he acknowledges that he takes few holidays. "Some weekends might be better spent with my family," he said, but "I think I have a job to do in trying to help to continue to advance the image of the CMHC."

Benoist said he has never been asked to work fewer days. He pointed out that his notice of appointment makes no mention of the fact that the chairman's post is part time. A government document, however, refers to a footnote to the fact that "the chairman of the CMHC is a part-time position." Benoist's appointment expires at the end of 1995 and

the Liberals apparently intend to let him complete his term. Since then, he has offices in November, 1997. The Liberals have awarded flights with Moloney's passport appointment, performing at most cases to wait until they leave their posts. Even when the government terminated the appointment of former Tory minister Robert de Gooey as an executive director at the World Trade last November, 1994, he was promptly given a contract with the finance department.

Benoist's case is somewhat of an anomaly: government officials say that most appointments to about 2000 part-time federal jobs do in fact work only part time. There is, however, no widespread abuse of the fact that the government does not set limits on the number of days that such people can work. The government is, however, examining whether such contracts could be imposed, without reducing the flexibility of appointments, to require part-time appointees to work long hours during a crisis for instance. But Benoist is not entirely alone. Moloney, appointed by Moloney as chairman of Canada Parts Corp. in March, 1992, also bills at a full-time rate, last year working more than 200 days. For the first 10 months of last year, Moloney received \$50,530, plus an annual honorarium of \$35,000.

And then there is the travel. In 1993 and January, 1994, Benoist received \$60,512.13 in expenses. In two months, April and September of 1993, he claimed and received \$88,953.90 for trips to Africa and Asia. In April, 1993, he led the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements in Nairobi, spending one weekend at the Indian Ocean beach resort of Mombasa. It was a weekend retreat, he said, "and while we were there we took the opportunity of doing some of the observation of the housing conditions that prevailed in that part of Kenya." Benoist also made a \$106 donation to an African charity that builds housing for women, and then claimed the amount as expenses.

Earlier that year, he claimed \$797.88 to attend the John A. Macdonald dinner at the Albany Club, one of the highlights of the social calendar at the downtown Toronto private club favored by Conservatives. Again, Benoist was ineligible. It was, he said, an "opportunity to meet the right people—the business and the other organizations that we, the CMHC, do business with." Politicians were also present, he said, but he refused to name them. "I don't think that's important, nor is it something that I intend to get into."

Benoist has been in politics for more than 20 years—first as an Ottawa city councillor, then as a provincial politician—and says he cannot himself fortunate that he always managed to find jobs that he enjoyed. And throughout his public life, Benoist says, he has always been guided by one overriding principle: "I have said," he said, "to approach problems from a Canadian taxpayer's point of view."

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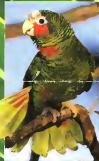
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## BANNING USER FEES

B.C. Health Minister Paul Ramsey said he wants to outlaw user fees charged by private health-care clinics. Ramsey was responding to federal Health Minister Diane Marleau, who gave the provinces until Dec. 15 to stop clinics from charging for essential services—or face a reduction in transfer payments from Ottawa.

## PRESUMED DEAD

All five members of a mercy mission were presumed dead after debris from a small jet was found off British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands. The team had been on its way to Masset, B.C., 150 km north of Vancouver, to assist a woman with childbirth complications.

## CUNTON IN CANADA

President Bill Clinton is to make his first state visit to Ottawa on Feb. 23 and 24. In addition to addressing Parliament, Clinton is expected to discuss a range of issues with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, including trade and defence cooperation.

## GRADING THE SCHOOLS

Alberta Education Minister Halvor Jonson unveiled a plan—the first of its kind in Canada—that would allow parents to rate schools and school boards on an annual basis. Jonson said he wants to make the education system more accountable.

## SMOKERS FILE SUIT

Three Ontario smokers launched a \$1-million class action suit against Canada's largest tobacco companies, seeking to hold the companies responsible for their illnesses. "The purpose is to get the message out there to stop kids getting into this stuff," said Donald Lefebvre, 57, who has emphysema and lung cancer.

## POLICE SEEK SEX OFFENDER

Police named a volunteer offender as the key suspect in the abduction of a Surrey, B.C., woman. Malina Carpenter, 24, disappeared on Jan. 4 from the business centre where she worked. Police were seeking Fernand Edmond Auger, 36, who was released from jail last August after serving two-thirds of a three-year sentence for armed robbery. Carpenter's father offered a \$50,000 reward for her return.

## ENDING AN OCCUPATION

About a dozen natives ended their four-week-long occupation of a Terraviva Revenue Canada building. The protesters, who object to recent tax changes that will force about 3,000 status Indians who work off reserves to pay income taxes, said they will take their case to Ottawa.

# Canada NOTES

## ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY:

Bio Quebecer leader  
Tudien Bouchard  
leaves a Montreal  
clinic after one of his  
daily physiotherapy  
sessions. Bouchard lost  
his left leg on Dec. 1 to  
neurotising encephalitis—  
the so-called flesh-  
eating disease. In a  
written statement, the  
ex-parliamentary leader  
said that "the sympathy  
and payers of my  
fellow citizens,  
Quebecers and  
Canadians alike, up-  
lift and encourage me  
in my recovery." He  
also indicated that he  
wants to resume his  
political activities.



## In the eye of the storm

Federal Justice Minister Allan Rock was accused of violating democratic principles by his support of anti-gun owners at meetings in Calgary and Winnipeg. In Calgary, 200 people gathered into a community hall while another 100 protesters braved the chilly night outside. They expressed outrage over Rock's promise to tighten Canada's gun-control laws by, among other things, requiring that all firearms be registered "after well the same thing," one woman shouted after Rock assured the crowd that he had no intention of confiscating their guns. Meanwhile, 261 Irwin, whose teenage daughter was murdered five months ago by a young offender with a semi-automatic handgun, told Rock that he does not see the logic of registering guns. Declared Irwin, to lead applause "It's a slap in the face for every responsible firearms owner in this nation, and goes directly to the face of almost 800 years of common law as laid down in the Magna Carta."

The following evening in Winnipeg, Rock waded through a crowd of more than 100 gun



Rock: "good for society"

supporters to attend a Liberal party fundraiser. Rock conceded afterward that his gun-control measures are a tough sell in the Prairie provinces. "A lot of people remain to be persuaded and that's why I'm here," he said. "The point is to make every effort to persuade them that this is good for society."

# BREAKING RANKS



## The war in Chechnya divides Russian leaders

The last rites for a fallen warrior were solemn and impressive. In Moscow last week, hundreds of high-ranking government officials filed past the rose-strewn casket of Viktor Vasilyev, 65, a general in the interior ministry's armed forces, whose Jan. 7 death in the Chechen capital of Grozny made him the most senior Russian officer killed in the gut-wrenching, month-long invasion of Chechnya. But there were no similar rites to console Tatyana Akhmedova, a mother haunted by the fear that a television newscast had shown her son-in-law Yegorov among dead Russian troops in the secessionist, largely Muslim region 1,500 km southeast of Moscow. Said Akhmedova: "They were lying there on the street with bullet holes through their helmets. It was all so quick, but I am sure it was him." For the moment, Akhmedova tried to console uncertainty over her son's fate at a poignant bottle-to in a brutal and bloody campaign, the Russian defense ministry had sent information about hundreds of soldiers who are missing in action from its hastily assembled forces in Chechnya.

While Akhmedova and about 50 other women gathered outside defense ministry headquarters in central Moscow—seeking information about their missing relatives and calling for an end to the war—others were providing a military campaign that furthest the Russian territorial integrity it was designed to preserve. Among them was Yegor Gaidar, a former acting prime minister and one of the more liberal reformers who have broken with President Boris Yeltsin, arguing that the country can ill afford to spend the \$7 billion or more that it would take to both pacify Chechnya and rebuild its war-shattered capital. That is also the view of International Monetary Fund officials

### WORLD

in Washington, who warned last week that the Chechen conflict jeopardizes a pending loan of \$632 billion that is meant to stabilize Russia's battered economy. At the same time, some of the country's best-known generals have criticized the military campaign itself, citing not at everything from the army's inability to hit military targets to the army's stumbling progress against urban-based and organized Chechen fighters. Even as government forces tightened their grip on a devastated, depopulated Grozny last week, the two-week-old assault on the city was destroying a lingering myth that the Russian military, the remains of the once mighty Red Army, stays out of politics and simply follows the orders of the new civilian rulers. Russian jets crashed and to pound Grozny even though Yeltsin himself twice ordered bombing pauses. And fighting raged throughout a two-day ceasefire that Moscow declared last week—prompting ordinary Russians and government leaders abroad to wonder whether Yeltsin had come over his soldiers.

Despite that apparent curb to the Russian president's authority, the Kremlin last week denied reports that he placed in tight direct control of all military operations by making the army general staff directly subordinate to him. But both poorly coordinated units mistakenly firing on each other and generally displaying a low level of combat capability during the battle for Grozny, Yeltsin and his top aides did consider such a takeover during recent discussions about the need for military reform.

And as Russian forces launched a heavy new offensive at Grozny at week's end, Yeltsin's preoccupations with army control emphasized

the key role that the military has played during Russia's turbulent transition from communism during the past four years, a period when many top commanders have directly involved themselves in politics. Prominent among them has been Gen. Boris Gromov, the last commander of Soviet ground forces in Afghanistan and a man whose repeated criticism of the Chechen campaign as ill-prepared and hesitant could cost him his job as a Deputy to Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. In 1991, Gromov was a vice-presidential candidate in a conservative reform that fished toward the eventual success, Boris Yeltsin and his military running mate, Gen. Alexander Lebedev. Later that year, a pitched by hardline Communists trying to oust Yeltsin's predecessor, Mikhail Gorbachev, failed because key commanders like Gromov refused to follow the orders of high-ranking top leaders, including the Soviet defense minister. Two years later, in October 1990, the army sided with Yeltsin and crushed an armed uprising that saw many of his former political associates

join in a chain of command subordinate to Moscow. The 10,000 troops under his command openly intervened in a secessionist conflict in 1993—that time on the side of Yeltsin who feared that the ethnic majority in Moldova was about to seek political union with their kinsfolk in Romania. Since then, Lebed has been a thorn in the side of the iron-fisted regime of Yeltsin-Chernomyrdin—and its coalition of his own power last year he defiantly told a Russian deputy defense minister not to bother coming to inspect his military fellow.

Such belligerent behavior has won approval from many Russians who see Lebed as a former hero of the country, a strong leader who would not shrink from using force to restore order and end the chaos of the past three years. His open criticism of the Chechen operation is also in tune with popular feeling, as recent polls show that 80 per cent of Russians are opposed to the war. The over-extended Lebed does not shrink from addressing a concern of Russian reformers: that the destabilizing effects of the war in Chechnya could end Russia's fragile experiment with democracy. Asked in a recent interview about the likelihood of a military coup, the general responded: "Why not? The people may eventually get sick and tired of this whole thing."

At the same time, Russia's ability to wage war has suffered because it is no longer prepared to devote 10 per cent of its resources to defense needs, as the Soviet Union did. With drastic cuts in manpower, equipment and training, many analysts say that military spending has shrunk from roughly parity with that of the United States to about five per cent of U.S. expenditures. One result was that the 40,000-member force that launched the invasion of Chechnya on Dec. 11 had to be cobbled together from undermanned units scattered across Russia, creating a poorly coordinated mixture of troops and machines that was a disaster waiting to happen.

Against his better judgment, Lebed simplified army procedures, the so-called Grachev gambit and lost by sending scores of tanks and other armored vehicles manned by ill-trained and inexperienced teenage conscripts into the Chechen capital without adequate armor support. That move was fueled by desperation since, last February, Yeltsin himself approved the dispatch of a specialized army unit trained in urban warfare tactics.

Blasphemy in the New Year's Eve assault on Grozny, the army switched tactics, bringing up fresh infantry reinforcements to advance street by street, to the center of the city. Among these new conscripted units was one from Yekaterinburg, Yeltsin's home town in the Ural, where strong pressure on unwilling militia led to the last episode at the Chechen front. It included 150 military security troops who remained at the camp they found there and simply returned to their home base. Said one of the unit's officers: "We were proud army, we did not have enough food or heat, and we had to live in trenches. We established three posts, but we were given no exact orders on what to do. We did not even have an order to open fire. Therefore, we decided to go back home."

Even without that consent, Russia has had enough soldiers and equipment to conquer Grozny. But Yeltsin's military advisers have revealed a stark truth in the past few days: the Russian army is a greater danger to post-Communist Russia than a small, rebel state far from Moscow.

MALCOLM GREY in Moscow



A Chechen fighter pauses corpse of a Russian soldier after the invasion in Grozny. (U.S. Army photo)

(Including Raskolnikov) shot out of the country's national legislature. During that same period, Russian generals have been involved in secret wars in non-Russian parts of the old empire—on the site of the rebel. In 1993, military aid from Russian commanders was sent in lesser Soviet bases near the Black Sea helped rebels in Abkhazia break away from Georgia, a secession that extended Moscow's de facto control of that strategic coastal region. But the commanders who helped offshore Georgia managed to stay hidden in the shadows of a busy repress conflict that drove Georgian forces from the area.

That is clearly not the case with Lt.-Gen. Alexander Lebed, a blunt, chain-smoking soldier and an outspoken critic of the Chechen operation, who consistently tops polls as Russia's most popular military leader. In his current post as commander of the 14th Army, a former Soviet force in the southwestern republic of Moldova, the 49-year-old Lebed has often appeared to be more a regional warrior than an all-

# Remembering the Holocaust



■ American liberators survey corpses of inmates at Buchenau; the air was thick with the smell of death

Not week marks the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the infamous Nazi death camp that has come to symbolize the Holocaust. At the location in the south central Polish region of Gliwice, camp survivors, representatives of 26 states and World Peacekeepers will gather to commemorate the 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, who died there—and the Red Army soldiers who freed about 7,000 prisoners on Jan. 27, 1945. Toronto consulting engineer Norman Lajpiger, 65, and his father, Jack, entered three months in Auschwitz, the first in a series of concentration camps to which they were sent. The son, Lask, and father, Alvin, perished there. His son, Lajpiger, discovered the last few months of his incarceration before his father's death in Germany's November on May 7, 1945.

## A concentration camp survivor recalls his liberation

January was a miserable, dark, wet and snowy month. The Germans penetrated our three-piece dusters and added to the bewilderment of our captives, suspended periodically close between life and death. My father and I had been in the Buchenau concentration camp, located in the southwestern part of Germany, since its inception in the fall of 1943. We were among the first transport of 850 Jewish men to

arrive from Auschwitz to work in the Krupp armaments factory. The German camp quickly grew to 30,000 prisoners. Most of them were Jews, the others Poles, Germans, Italians, Frenchmen and Chinese men—prisoners with various designations ranging from political opponents to saboteurs and homosexuals. Hunger, cold, hard work and

severe punishment for the slightest infraction of the camp rules were our daily companions. Of the original 850 inmates, only 50 were still in the German camp by January. The others died of starvation or sickness, or were sent back to Auschwitz.

But in mid-January, a ray of hope could be detected in Buchenau. The constant rain of food and warmth was replaced with speculation about the end of the war and the progress of the Allied forces. Some of the older German civilians at the Krupp factory, in which we spent 12 hours each shift, whispered words of encouragement. I was about 15 years old, but years of malnutrition made me look even younger. "Bring on, Hitler (like our), the Nazis are on the run," they would say. To them, I had no name; the number 230585 inscribed on my left arm was my identification.

The Allied air raids were becoming much more frequent. The

question on everyone's mind was "What will happen to us?" Would the Nazis kill us before the Soviet army reached us? Our speculations ended during the last days of January, when we were assembled early one morning on the apple plots, or toilet place. As usual, we had to stand for hours at attention, motionless. Everyone stood as best as he could, head up and straight. The weaker ones, those who fell or even sweated, were immediately removed. We could only speculate on their fate. Finally, we were given a double daily bread ration and marched out of camp. We looked back at those left behind at the barracks and were glad not to be among them.

We marched west, some 10,000 of us, in rows of five and were counted as we left the camp gate. The line stretched behind me and in front of me beyond the line of sight. For about two hours, we made good progress and maintained our positions. After that, the lines deteriorated; some people started to fall back, the stronger ones stepped ahead. Our wooden dogs got soaked in the snow under our feet turned to wet mud. The space between inmates got longer and the guards shouted and beat us with their gun belts to close up the ranks.

At times, my father and I fell behind and suddenly found ourselves at the rear of the column. The guards encouraged the stragglers to sit down on the road. Once, as the column advanced, we heard screams a few metres behind us and saw the so-called despised commandos entering two or three stragglers with one shot through their heads to preserve bullets. My father and I gathered our strength and surged forward, pulling each other as we went. Whenever we could we gathered snow to quench our thirst. The first several miles.

On the third day of marching, as we shuffled along village roads, German women rushed out of houses with bread and water, only to be beaten back with shouts and gas burns by our guards. Some desecrated their skin and reached us. Each morsel of food looted to us caused a fight as the prisoners threw themselves on it. The women watched with horror and cried. Three days later, we reached our destination: the much-feared concentration camp of Gross Rosen. During the six-day march of 80 km, we lost about 5,000 men.

Gross Rosen was overcrowded with prisoners evacuated from various camps as the Allied front lines advanced deeper into Germany. We were packed into barracks so tightly that it was almost impossible to lie down. By the first light of the morning, we pushed the bed out of our clothing and crumpled them between our shoulders.

I was selected to help remove the dead from our barracks. Two of us grabbed the heads of a skeletal corpse while another prisoner grabbed the feet. The head bounced on the ground, settling as eerie, hollow sound that has stayed with me ever since. At the time, I resented his death, which required

me to spend my dwindling strength on carrying his body to the toilet wagon. In Buchenau, after 10 days at Gross Rosen, my father and I were among those able-bodied inmates selected for delousing and we lived up to be executed in another camp further in the German interior. We were sent a few days later to the east and later to the west. We were marched out of the camp and, to our surprise, loaded into open cattle cars. We were told that we were being transported to Ploesenberg concentration camp in the south. The train rule was supposed to take three days. It took eight, and we recovered no extra food for the extra duration. In the last part of February, we arrived in Ploesenberg, located high in the mountains. The climb from the railroad line to the camp is uphill, and many could not make it.

After about two weeks there, we were transported to Mauthausen concentration camp in the west of Germany. Our strength was diminishing by the day. We had great doubts that we would last long enough to see liberation. In mid-April, as Allied forces

closed in on all fronts, we were moved again, this time to an sub-camp of Buchenau located deep in a dense Bavarian forest.

After 21 months of living hell, I was a weakman, a walking skeleton. When orders came to evacuate yet again, I approached the camp commandant and requested permission to stay behind at the infirmary barracks. He agreed and, after much pleading, allowed my father to stay with me.

On May 3, the heavy, overcast sky fit the mood of the inmates in the infirmary. It had been a week since the last evacuation transport left the camp, and the air was thick with the smell of death and decay. Suddenly, the door burst open and someone shouted: "The Americans are here! We are free! We are free!" No one moved. The words as long awaited were inconceivable to our minds. They promised life and freedom to people who knew only hunger, despair and death. But after a few seconds, the words began to sink in. And like a heavy dam, a flood of emotion washed over us. My father and I embraced and danced, laughing and crying for joy. We had survived. □



■ Jewish children of Auschwitz concentration camp near Auschwitz; hunger, cold, hard work and punishment





# A crisis in confidence erupts over jobs and the dollar

# HOW BAD CAN'T GET?

BY DEIRDRE MCMURDY

Just a decade ago, it would have been unthinkable that economic crises in one developing Latin American nation could send shockwaves reverberating through global financial markets. But last week, that is precisely what happened. Lingering uneasiness caused by the abrupt devaluation of the Mexican peso on Dec. 20 prompted elite international investors to take flight not only from Mexico—where the peso has plummeted by 45 per cent since its devaluation—but from other Latin American nations and emerging markets as well as the United States and Canada (page 28).

According to currency leaders, heightened international scrutiny of the economic crisis in Mexico led to a market panic about the potential spillover on its partners in the year-old North American Free Trade Agreement. And as Canada and the United States jumped in to help stabilize Mexico with a \$15.5-billion package of temporary credit lines, they too were dislodged down. "With all the sudden emphasis on Mexico and NAFTA, we've been completely turned by the same bomb," says Chris Thomas, chief money markets trader for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

In Canada, however, that terror triggered a market panic that sent the already-sliding stock market to a new low of 70.25 cents (U.S.), and a 10-point decline in the dollar rate sharply upped to 85 per cent from 8 per cent and three-year mortgage rates to over 10 per cent. That sequence placed Canada's fragile economic recovery—and the desperate bid to improve national employment levels—in jeopardy.

On a broader scale, the direct impact of Mexico's problems on the financial markets of the United States also reflects some of the backlash from the relentless globalization of national economies and markets. With the formation of the World Trade Organization and the relatively recent emergence of such highly ranked regional trading blocs as NAFTA, the European Union and Latin America's Mercosur alliance, sovereign nations are only now beginning to struggle with the consequences and the challenges of establishing some of their individual economic policy options to the collective. Last week, rather than acting unilaterally to distance their domestic economies from the fallout from Mexico, a longtime interest in preserving stable export markets—as well as the articles of NAFTA—and Canada and the United States is open-

ended the creation of an additional \$54-billion international bailout package for their partner. And that initiative successfully stopped Mexico's downward spiral.

While these newly formed ties are being tested by the results of Mexico, last week's events also highlighted the persistent conflict between billions of dollars in highly mobile capital—so-called hot money—and the longer-term objectives of trade policy. Vast sums of money can move around the world within seconds, a phenomenon that can profoundly affect exchange rates and relative competitiveness. International trade, by contrast, is highly complex and less responsive. Said Donald Brown, a professor of international finance at the University of Toronto, "Short-term capital moves can suddenly stop abruptly, lengthen trade supply. And the clash between these two



■ **Lump at 60k:**  
30,000 people displaced  
■ **Depositor hunt for**  
water paying work, while  
the dollar fell to a six-  
month low—a caution  
sign that means there's  
deep curve ahead!

money markets can cause great volatility."

For Canada, at least, regular bonds of financial stability are becoming a way of life. While some of that market churning stems from the transition to a more interlinked global economy, much of it also stems from domestic causes. The \$25 billion national deficit, greatly increases Canada's vulnerability to the whims of foreign creditors—who hold 40 per cent of the debt—over—and it weakens their confidence in the nation's management of a government's affairs.

The burden of the deficit will be especially heavy over the next several months. Central banks in Europe and the United States have already begun to tighten the international

monetary supply in a bid to quench any delirious inflation, and the amount of capital waiting through world markets is gradually being reduced. Furthermore, as interest rates increase in developed industrial economies like the United States and Germany, investors are flocking to the improved returns from their lower risk opportunities.

At the end of January, the Federal Reserve's Market Committee is expected to raise and to increase short-term U.S. rates for the seventh time in the past 12 months. That is expected to exert pressure on Canadian rates, which must keep pace with the United States to continue attracting foreign capital—and to continue funding the deficit. Said Thomas, "The fight from risk was under way before Mexico hit, but it has hastened the process greatly."

For Canada—and the Canadian dollar—that global quest for security could signal more trouble ahead. Disputed jobs to investor confidence impose a higher risk premium on a currency. When it comes to Canada, foreign confidence has already been rattled by the ongoing political uncertainty over the future of Quebec. And those jittery will be exacerbated by two federal by-elections in Quebec, getting federalists against the Bloc Québécois—a prelude of sorts to the seven early elections later this year.

International markets are also looking for tough terms from Finance Minister Paul Martin in the upcoming federal budget. Observers warn that if the markets judge Martin's package of spending cuts as insufficient, the dollar will be shut down on global markets once again. Last week, the Swedish currency was devalued when capital markets judged that a new budget—which included spending cuts equal to four per cent of Sweden's gross national product—were inadequate.

Although the attack on the Canadian dollar started by week's end following the aggressive intervention of the Bank of Canada—it spent more than \$500 million to purchase and swap it up in ten national markets—few are expecting a smooth ride ahead. For one thing, many of the problems that precipitated the crisis in Mexico—including an over reliance on foreign capital and a chronic current account deficit—apply to Canada as well. In fact, after Mexico, Canada has the second-highest current account deficit ratio among the members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Last week, *The Wall Street Journal*, voice of American capitalists, covered an uptick by referring to Canada as an "emerging member of the Third World." But, said Brown, "The markets had a single warning that Mexico was on the edge. And the same applies to Canada's situation. Any financial disaster should come as no surprise."

To date, the Bank of Canada has allowed the Canadian dollar to trade just above 70 cents (U.S.) as it had to avoid increasing interest rates. John Johnston, an economist with the treasury department of the Royal Bank of Canada, said, "The central bank is trying to let markets gradually find all sorts, to adjust, to calm." At the 70-cent (U.S.) mark, however, Johnston noted, "They put up a stop sign, but a caution sign that says there's a steep curve ahead." With many currency speculators seeing a trend that built over the next several weeks—perhaps pushing the prime lending rate up by as much as three per cent—Canadians had better brace their seat belts. □

Panic spreads throughout North and South America as investors retreat

# WEIGHING THE 'MEXICO' FACTOR

While Canada's dollar crisis reached a boiling point last week, Mexican Foreign Minister José Ángel Gurría was in Canada for emergency meetings with bankers and senior federal ministers in an effort to shore up confidence in his country's own floundering currency. The spokesman was overpowering, bringing into sharp relief the ongoing concern in the minds of many Canadians: could Mexico happen here? For that reason, the Mexican crisis generated more interest than usual in Canada.

The timing of the Gurría visit could not have been worse. The crisis with the dollar and the peso overwhelmed last year's presentations in Ottawa for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's 13-day trip to Latin America, which began this week with visits to Uruguay and Argentina. Instead, the focus of concern shifted away from being someone else in the turmoil in the Mexican economy and the impact on Canada.

Gurría's presence last week was significant because, for Canada, Mexico is no longer just another Latin American nation—certainly not since the abrupt devaluation of the peso on Dec. 20. As the third member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), along with the United States, it is now one of Canada's closest economic partners. As a result, the devaluation of the peso sent the freest-flying in value of Mexican stocks and bonds caused tremors for Canadian and U.S. currencies, just as Chile is stepping up its campaign to become the fourth member of the trade pact. The jitter caused by Mexico's political and economic problems prompted a steep slide in the value of the Canadian dollar and led to a hike in interest rates and a new round of domestic economic uncertainty.

The repercussions of Mexico's crisis also were evident throughout Latin America. In Chile, the stock index sank three per cent last Tuesday, while on the same day in Argentina, the Merval stock index was pushed down by nine per cent and Brazil's Bovespa index was down 10 per cent. "The panic is spreading," said Claudio Di Gregorio, a spokesman for the Argentine embassy in Ottawa. "The echoes of the news are reaching us."

Business and government leaders from the region were doing all they could to ease that crisis. In Toronto, where he met Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, Gurría insisted that Mexico remains a good place to do business, and, furthermore, has become an even better place to invest because of the devalued peso. "I think it provides excellent opportunities simply because the market is so cheap," he said. In fact, Gurría insisted—however improbably—that the currency crisis was just the tonic that his country's econ-



Photo: Canada Press/John W. H. Watson



**■ A Mexican woman protests the peso's devaluation last week; Gurría (left), insisting that Mexico's economy is still healthy**



omical support plan organized by the United States. Mexican officials felt that the hand would not be downed soon. But only last week, the Mexicans raised eyebrows—and ignited a panic in the financial community—by announcing they had already tapped \$60 billion from the Canadian credit line and \$200 million from the U.S. portion. But despite the pledge of further support for the peso from U.S. President Bill Clinton—and the prospect of another, larger international rescue fund—MacLaren said that Canada had an intention of increasing its contribution to that effort. "I am confident—as I am sure the foreign minister [Gurría] is confident—that the worst is over," MacLaren said. He felt, backed by a strong international display of support for the peso, Mexican markets rallied in the final three days last week, regaining almost 12 per cent.

Even if the worst was over, the Mexican crisis tarnished Latin America's luster, as well as that of other emerging economies, in the eyes of international investors. For critics at NAFTA, including Bob White of the Canadian Labor Congress, the panic was proof that NAFTA is fatally flawed. "I think those people who said this was going to be good for all three economies have got on their faces," White said. And even keen supporters of free trade, including Reform MP and foreign affairs critic Bob Mills, conceded that the view that Latin American economies have matured and become stable needs some modification. "We need our eyes open," he said. "Now, we realize that there is a lot of room for risk."

Certainly one of the principal problems that Gurría will have to overcome in his upcoming trip—his itinerary does not include a stop in Mexico—is the relative ignorance of Canadians about Latin America and the heightened concern about the risks associated with doing business there. The Prime Minister's scheduled schedule includes stops in Trinidad, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Costa Rica.

So far, Canada's relationship with the 13 countries of South

America is not warming. It is a commitment to expand trade south of Mexico. Chile's ambassador to Canada, Rodrigo Díaz, added that Chrétien's arrival is doubly important in the wake of the Mexican economic crisis. "It will show that Mexico's crisis is in Mexico and not worldwide," he told MacLaren. "We must continue with the process."

In addition to its enthusiasm for trade, Canada and Latin America also share a sometimes overwhelming, and often difficult, relationship with the United States. As with the inclusion of Mexico in NAFTA, Canadian leaders increasingly view integration of trade with Latin America—as well as such emerging Asian markets as China—as a remedy to Canada's traditional overreliance on U.S. markets. While the U.S. accounts for 80 per cent of Canadian exports, South America, Central America and China each account for only about one per cent. For their part, Latin American countries often perceive Canada as a developed and experienced potential intermediary in their dealings with Washington. "With the United States, there are problems. With Canada, we don't have complications," says Chile's Díaz.

Because Chrétien, as a politician, is intent on maintaining an ever-growing domestic focus, has Latin America made well at most certainly carry some national political messages. For one thing, Chrétien may hope to remind Quebecers, on the eve of the referendum, that, as he declared during the Asia-Pacific Economic summit last November, "membership has its privileges." Canada may be a well-respected member of global trade blocs, as goes Chrétien's argument, but Quebec's participation is far from guaranteed.

As with so many other initiatives that Chrétien's government has embraced, however, the heightened interest in Latin America actually dates back to the days of the Tory government, when Brian Mulroney, in 1980, created Canada in the Organization of American States. Now, spurred by Chrétien's visit to Miami, Canada's ambassador in Chile, expressed the hope that Canadian business firms will grow and expand and succeed will flourish as well. "There is no doubt that it is the future of where we are going," he said. But, as the dollar and peso crises brought home last week, such close relationships are far from better and worse.

WARREN CARAGATA in Ottawa

Last week, 26,000 job hunters signalled a desperate search for meaningful jobs

# LOOKING FOR WORK

BY BRENDA DALGLISH

**T**heir workmen at a modern auto assembly plant are not human. They are machines. Strong robotic arms tirelessly using body parts in auto position. Robotic robot fingers dexterously weld joints, never tiring, never making a mistake. And the machines are almost as smart as they are hungry. Computers run the assembly line, ending sure that it ends off the hundreds of ways, precisely the right way, arrive just in time to meet up with the auto for which they are intended (and send it on its way to the end of the line). Guided by sophisticated software programs, the line turns out a mid two-door automatic sedan, followed by a blue two-door automatic hatchback, followed by a luxury limousine model loaded with every option, without making up a single error.

But the machines, of course, cannot do everything. People are still needed for jobs that require mental or physical flexibility. It is a person, for instance, who crawls slowly into each partially assembled vehicle to wedge the carpet into place. But the idea of workers slumped around workbenches did not deter 26,000 men and women who waited for hours in below-average January temperatures to apply for jobs at General Motors of Canada Ltd.'s plant in Pickering, Ont., last week. The appeal of the GM jobs was simple: \$45,000 a year plus benefits, and whatever job security that may come from working for the world's largest industrial corporation.

The sight of Canadians so desperate for a decent job that they were willing to spend a winter night outside in a lineup is a stark and sobering demonstration of the nation's anxiety about jobs. Pollster Alan Gregg, who, as president of Decima Research Ltd. in Toronto has been monitoring the hopes and fears of the Canadian public for the past 25 years, says that despite all the other issues on the national political agenda in Canada over the past decade, it is unemployment that consistently preoccupies Canadians. "We've never seen lower than 45 per cent of the Canadians we survey saying that they are at least somewhat concerned that they or their family's main breadwinner could lose their job," said Gregg. "It is the consistent, enduring, ongoing issue that has defined the past 10 years."

For Jeremy Pitkin, president of the Foundation on Economic Trends in Washington and author of the new book *The End of Work*, the GM lineup was the most

COVER

**GM job lineup in Pickering: well-paid, union-drafted jobs like these are disappearing and are not being replaced**



PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL



highly visible evidence of his theory that new technologies are replacing workers so quickly that modern economies will soon be able to maintain using the labor of only a fraction of their citizens. "I was in Chicago two weeks and everyone was talking about the old line," said Pitkin. "It's not as people, but it's just the beginning. The jobs are gone and they're not coming back." Added Pitkin: "We're moving into what I call the Third Industrial Revolution, during which we will see the eventual phase-out of mass labor in the production of goods and services."

But if Pitkin's long-term perspective is bleak, the near-term news is somewhat more promising. In 1994, the Canadian economy ended as so-called jobless recovery and created an impressive 302,000 jobs, bringing the total number of Canadians with jobs to 22.6 million people. That was the best job-creation performance since 1985, but it still leaves 11 million Canadians officially unemployed. In addition, economists estimate that there are hundreds of thousands of other discouraged workers who would return to the labor force if job prospects improve. For 1995, the forecast for Canada's economic growth is solidly positive, although slightly less rosy than in 1994. The economy is continuing to recover from the recession and that is creating jobs at a faster pace than many economists had initially predicted. However, almost rates are continuing to rise in the United States and Canada, a trend that will almost certainly slow the rate of economic growth this year. The economy grew by about 4.5 per cent last year, but economic projections are now calling for growth of about 3.5 per cent in 1995. And if economic growth falters, job growth will quickly stall as well.

Does it is an endorsement of relatively strong economic growth, however, it is unlikely that the pressures of Canada's unemployment problem will be greatly relieved. Economists are increasingly perplexed by the gap between Canada and U.S. unemployment rates. The unemployment rate in Canada is now at 9.6 per cent, far percentage points higher than the 5.6-percentage rate in the United States. Michael McCredie, an economist with the independent forecasting agency Information Ltd. in Ottawa, notes that in the 1970s the situation was reversed and Canada had lower unemployment rates than the U.S. "We went into a deeper recession in 1980-1982 and we had a much more restrictive monetary policy. It has eventually been

went to address the problem of the disappearance of some skilled, well-paid jobs—like those in the GM assembly line—for all workers to experience a level of unemployment. For the time being, the argument goes, workers will be able to find new jobs in the economy of the computerized information age. Even in the United States, where the official unemployment rate is much lower than Canada's, Labor Secretary Robert Reich sees an increasingly troubling divide in society between those who have studied at college or have advanced job training and those who have not. "The rich education and skill don't guarantee a good job in the new economy," said Reich last week. "But they are a prerequisite."

In Canada, at first glance, the argument appears to be compelling. Economist Lloyd Adelman, an investment counselor with M.T. Associates Inc. in Toronto, points out that during the recession, from 1981 to 1985, the domestic economy lost 300,000 jobs. But during that same period, employment outside the country rose by 308,000—a 17-percent increase over three years. For those who did not finish high school, job losses totalled 651,000—a 28-percent drop. Said Adelman: "Almost 30 per cent of jobs are dropping out of high school. Good God! That's the conditioning them to life in the state."

According to the Canadian Manufacturer's Association, the average requirement for assembly-line worker will take one year of college as well as a knowledge of computers. "An assembly-line worker does not stand around with a manual key wrench anymore," Adelman said. "The person must know how to use a keyboard and if something goes wrong, he'll have to consult a manual."

Many Canadians are already developing an enthusiasm for education that means to mirror their country's needs. Although the unemployment rate was not about the same, people throughout the G7—200 percent would be several hours last week in suburban Toronto to register their children at a so-called alternative high school run by the Scarborough Board of Education. The R.H. King Academy offers an enriched academic program that requires students to study computer science and at least one other technical subject. Wilson Kwan, an English teacher there, draws a direct connection between concerns about unemployment and the high demand for admission to the school. "Maybe people feel that if

## WHERE THE JOBS ARE

New jobs created in 1994

Manufacturing	+55,000
Construction	+52,000
Retailing	+31,000
Computing industries	+17,000
Hotel, restaurant, entertainment services	+33,000

## WHERE THE JOBS ARE NOT

Jobs eliminated in 1994

Agriculture	-27,000
Health services	-21,000
Public administration	-23,000
Real estate	-20,000
Chemical manufacturing	-10,000

CALCULATED ON AN ANNUAL AVERAGE BASIS

PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE FOR THE GLOBE AND MAIL

they line up for the night high school," says Rabiner, "they won't have to line up for a factory job when they are 30."

## COVER

But Rabiner argues that education and retraining are not the panaceas that some believe. In the future, he concedes, the state workforce will be highly educated specialists. But he also warns that education is only a solution for a relatively small portion of the workforce. The real issue, he says, is that machines are reducing the overall number of jobs. And although new jobs are being created, they are not being produced in the main markets that will be needed to employ the population. "Regardless of how much retraining you do, within 30 years the global marketplace will not require more than 20 per cent of the population to operate. What are the other 80 percent going to do?"

Rabiner cited the automobile industry, the steel industry and the steel industry as sectors where the introduction of sophisticated technology has boosted productivity while requiring only a fraction of the former number of workers. The number of workers has fallen drastically in the past century but their output has skyrocketed. In 1950, a former producer made a few dollars, now a former producer makes a lot of money. The trend is similar in the steel industry. Statistics Canada says that the number of people employed in steel production has fallen to 35,300 from 58,500 people in 1990, while the level of crude steel production has almost tripled to 25.6 million tons a year. "We said that if you pay to be labor saving," said Rabiner. "And that's just what it's doing—it's saving labor, it's replacing labor. We're only in the early stages, but soon, we will not need mass labor any more."

But in contrast to the experience of the past, the workers displaced by the automation revolution will not simply move up to the next industry—as farmers did to manufacturing during the last century—in to find jobs.

As the problem of underemployment grows, it is losing its way into the political agenda of both Canada and the United States—even if politicians are reluctant to tackle it. The U.S. voters' decision to elect the Democratic Party and return the Republicans may have directly contributed to concerns about unemployment. "It turned out that people voted because of job insecurity," said Rabiner, "even though no one was speaking to it politically."

In Canada, the situation is the same. George, who was a key strategist in the last Conservative federal election campaign, says that, in general, politicians do not devote as much energy to unemployment as the public would like. Said George: "I think that part of the frustration of the population with their leaders is that their priority on employment has never been consistently reflected back by the political leadership." As a result of that alienation, there are signs that Canadian and American societies are getting closer—and grimmer. McCracken, who was a consultant for the Federal Advisory Group on Working Time and the Transformation of Work, says that the conservative board members of working parents who were forced to leave their jobs to attend to emergencies involving their children, only to return to work the next day and find that they had been fired. "We heard these stories time and again," said McCracken. "It was chilling." Just in chilling as 26,000 people living up largely that they never materialize.



UPS courier low wage and high-tech phones helped to law the company

McCracken, the winner of the Economic Development Association of Canada's 1990 Developer of the Year award, has made enemies before while promoting companies like Canada Post, Procter & Gamble, and Transpore Ltd. to transfer thousands of jobs to his province. The Manitoba government is still searching over Purveyor Ltd.'s 1992 decision to locate its national customer service centre in Manitoba, N.B., rather than Winnipeg. As well, a statistician worked with the New Brunswick government last year after the Royal Bank of Canada announced that it would create 500 jobs and build a new call centre in Moncton instead of Halifax.

Last week, New Brunswick faced accusations that it bought the UPS jobs with \$6 million in grants, camouflaged as training and relocation funding. Not so, countered UPS, which cited the province's state-of-the-art telephone system, low wages, balanced workforce and "friendly business climate" for the decision to move jobs from its old base in Vancouver to New Brunswick. Now, four American firms associated with UPS have contacted New Brunswick for information about relocating their call centres. Suspect one, an unnamed Canadian company, which had previously moved its telephone answering operations to Arizona, is expected to announce it will shift those operations to New Brunswick. As for Ontario, on Jan. 23, McCracken's private plane is scheduled to land in Toronto for another of his frequent Atlantic excursions.

JACOB M. HARRIS in Halifax

## HUSTLING JOBS

Dublin—Frank McCreesh, never thinking about them almost as much as he loves negotiating them. In fact, the sprawling pioneer of New Brunswick admits that he spends about one-quarter of his week day devising strategies to lure businesses to his job-hungry province. Last week, he closed a shipment—United Parcel Services (UPS) Ltd. agreed to move 60 jobs from across the country to New Brunswick. That news opened an unprecedented first. Outgoing governments and labor leaders accused McCreesh of stealing jobs from the rest of the country. Irish-born Columbian stopped to making crack calls to the 1400 McCreesh hotline set up for prospective investors. But the burst of publicity surrounding the UPS move also amounted to free advertising. In the two days after the company's announcement, 16 other companies contacted McCreesh's office about moving east.

That is just the sort of news to make the fiercely competitive first minister's work complete. His is a business with creating jobs—particularly by persuading businesses to move their telephone answering services made New Brunswick's borders—sell well at home where his government's second-hand car industry is a tradition, expected this fall. As a result, McCreesh appeared on concerned last week about the charges of job poaching. "We're not curious of British Columbia and their extraordinary wealth and the billions of dollars of Asian money they receive every year," he declared sincerely. "We're not envious of the oil wells in Alberta or the automotive plants in Ontario and Quebec. We just want others to respect the fact that we in New Brunswick want to stand on our own two feet."



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BUILT FOR DRIVERS

Shivering jobless  
hope for work

BY D'ARCY JENISH

For several days afterwards, Mike Wilson could barely stand up when he got out of bed in the morning because his shoulders hurt so much. On Jan. 8, the 39-year-old Ajax, Ont., welder/cooler suffered severe temperatures and stood for nine hours in an enormous hangar under a construction centre in Pickering, a suburb east of Toronto, to apply for work at General Motors of Canada Ltd. (GM) in nearby Oshawa. Over a two-day period, a total of 26,000 desperate job hunters filled out applications, despite lottery-like odds against landing a \$22-an-hour assembly line job with the giant automaker. "It was brutal," Wilson, whose job with a Toronto-based manufacturing company is about to disappear because of a corporate restructuring, recalled two days later. "Memories of this thing won't go away. I can already see the younger workers. I was in the General Motors line-up and I'm still unemployed."

In fact, the hangar may well become an enduring symbol of Canada's troubled economy in the early 1990s—just as images of Prince's desert storms and snow riding westward railway boxcars have come to epitomize the Great Depression of the 1930s. GM officials admitted that they were surprised for the response and that they underestimated the hunger for secure jobs that brought people to Pickering from across Ontario, and even as far away as Regina. The hangar was even more remarkable given that the company had not announced any firm plans to begin hiring new workers. "Our aim," said GM Canada president and general manager Monna Kempston Durbak, "is simply to create a pool of workers who could fill in for normal attrition, some time in the future."

She also noted remarks that the automaker is planning to add a third shift—and as many as 1,200 jobs—at its Chevrolet Lumina and Monte Carlo assembly plant in Oshawa. Still, rumors of such large-scale hiring continually circulated among those who shivered and froze in the hangar. And they contributed to the stampede to fill out applications. James How, manager of special events at the 250,000-sq-ft Metro East Transit Centre, which occupies the equivalent of about two city blocks, said that several hundred people were already pushed outside the facility when he left around 6 p.m. on Jan. 8, a Sunday, after a weekly five-market and antique show.

Initially, GM had planned to accept applications between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. both Monday and Tuesday, based on an anticipated response of about 5,000 job seekers per day. But the huge crowds

LINING UP THE  
UNEMPLOYED

Wilson, Bevil expects trouble finding a chance to win job security and a benefits package



Mike: "I'm getting to a point in my life where, if I don't get a good job, it won't happen"

changed that agenda. Staff began admitting people an hour early on Monday morning. By mid-afternoon that day, hundreds of people near the front of the line were becoming nervous and irritable because they feared that they might not be admitted by 4 p.m. At that point, GM officials conferred briefly and announced that they would keep the center open until midnight. Later that evening, they made a decision to run it all night. They finally began to turn people away at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, at which point they had been operating nearly 36 hours straight and had received an estimated 26,000 applications.

But the numbers, as big as they were, tell only a fragment of the story. The individuals in the crowd, and their personal experiences, represented a microcosm of almost everything that has gone wrong in the Canadian economy since the recession hit in 1990—and since an uneven recovery began two years ago. There were both skilled workers and unskilled workers who have been out of work for months, university graduates and high-school dropouts who have not been able to find anything beyond minimum-wage jobs, middle mothers on welfare and stay-at-home mothers attempting to rejoin the workforce. In short, the lineup contained hundreds of people who have been knocked down the economic ladder or knocked out of the workforce—or many cases through no fault of their own. Some stories from the longest line:

"We got in the line at 20 to 30 in the morning on Monday and I was overwhelmed," recalls Susan Dentis, a 35-year-old mother of three, just two credits short of a high-school diploma, from Newmarket, Ont., a village 60 km southeast of Toronto. "It was hard even finding the wall of the line. For the last 8½ hours I was leaning on the people in front of me because of the pressure from people pushing. I got frostbite on right of my toes. My only hope for a job this winter was as a part-time cross-country ski instructor but now my toes are buggered. The guy I'm living with lost his job at a printing company last summer because of a fight with his boss. He filed for unemployment insurance. Now it's difficult to find. He's been working a bit here and there but we had to get welfare. We received one cheque in early January that was \$67 more than the next guy. It's been a rollercoaster. So with mortgage payments and kids and cars to keep on the road, \$22 an hour sounds real good."

"I looked up and down that line and found myself thinking 'This is where I'm at in life,'" says Bruce Hertz, a former financial services agency executive from Richmond Hill, Ont. With a community college diploma in environmental horticulture, as well as several credits in sales and marketing courses, Hertz notes: "The last time

I got in the line was 1989. I was there out of desperation. A \$20-an-hour psychoanalyst benefits, would be a problem."

"It was hoping to get into GM one day," says 36-year-old Dennis Jones, an Oshawa resident with a degree in psychology from the University of Waterloo, Ont. "But I don't think it would have to be on the line after going to university. I've sent out a lot of resumes but there's nothing out there. There's so many people who are qualified for everything. I graduated in 1986 and all I've been able to find is a temporary summer job at the regional water pollution control plant. It's just a general laborer's job, maintenance, clean up, painting, whatever needs to be done. They still bring at home. I use my parents' car, 74 like to get out on my own one day, but I don't know when. I'm getting discouraged."

"The exploring of the options," says 34-year-old William Brownie, a former front-desk manager at a Sheraton Hotel in Toronto who was laid off in November. "It's been in the hotel business for 20 years, right out of high school. I held seven different positions and worked my way up the ladder. I had 20 or 25 people under me and intended to stay in the business for the rest of my life. When I was laid off, it

was just very sudden and quite a shock. It didn't come at a very good time, either. I have a seven-year-old son. He was born a couple of weeks late, but I got laid off the day before my wife's due date."

"Working at General Motors would mean better doctors, security, independence for me," says Dennis Alderman, 40, a single mother with two daughters, a community college nursing diploma and no job prospects. "I went back to school because I didn't want to be on mother's allowance for the rest of my life. I hate being on it. I really do. I completed my degree at June, 1990, but haven't worked a day as a nurse. It's very, very discouraging. You don't like

to go to school for 35 years and have nothing. I'd like to be able to do what I want to without having to count every penny. It would be nice to know that if you need something you've got a few extra bucks in the bank to go-out and splash."

"It's amazing how much the cold will take out of a person," says 34-year-old Oshawa resident Len Derwent, who is employed as a sales clerk for a Belleville, Ont.-based chain of retail dairy stores. "I was in line for nine hours and found a constantly and mentally draining. I had to work afterward and I had no patience. I would tell time for someone who, as benefits, nothing. There's no pay holidays but I do take time off whenever I can afford it or ask. In 1991, I finished a three-year community college course in food and drug technology, which is quality control training for the pharmaceutical and food industries. I had a job in the lab at a micro-processing facility in Toronto for three months. Then, the recession hit and everything fell through. One thing about this GM thing that is hopeful is that maybe the manufacturing sector is opening up. But when I was standing in that line it made me wonder what the recession was like." That thought, undoubtedly, occurred to many others as they stood in the aching cold parading wait, for thousands of Canadians, as becoming a distant dream—a secure job with a regular paycheck. □

## THE EDUCATION CONNECTION

Since 1986, there has been a 50% increase of more than 400,000 job seekers. Canada's total tally of 10.5 million unemployed workers peaks in the winter months.

Level of education	Change in number of people unemployed, 1986-1991
Grade 11 or less	-447,000
Some high school	-378,000
High-school graduate	-359,000
Some post-secondary	+43,000
College or technical degree	+645,000
University graduate	+32,000

very responsible jobs in my field. About four years ago, I decided to work on my own as a collection consultant but it just didn't pan out. I couldn't compete against the big guys in the industry. My unemployment insurance ran out and I still wasn't getting the accounts as to support myself as I found myself in the welfare system. I'm living in a basement apartment and driving a 1977 Honda Civic. I'm getting to the point in my life where, if I don't land a good job, it's not going to



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**T**he \$700-billion question, if someone is to find it in Canada, is "Is there an 'Innocent Third World country' that is what *The Wall Street Journal* recently pronounced to be a 'black hole' for investors?"

Customers of ethanol that also share a "Mexico isn't the only U.S. neighbor filled with the financial abyss" while that one isn't going to knock talking cats and kittens probably find the front page of any newspaper tabloid, if it prints any conspiracy coming from the newspaper, so no tabloid is that it will use a killings instead of photographs to illustrate the news. Maybe it's that it's not the only one for

The cuisine of these nations is often delicious and nicely varied. And from these

Still, we all have a lot of work ahead of us before we can officially boast that we are among the ranks of the Third World. We have to dismantle large chunks of our comprehensive social welfare programs and destroy vast parts of our national infrastructure. [www.michael-hart.com](http://www.michael-hart.com)

debt may actually be in the financial and

business is the new competition, erasing

The tight, far-long-distance dollars is relatively new, but already the leading newswire is beginning to feel the blooded. Last week, the largest company among the many new entrants in the deregulated long-distance telephone market, Toronto-based Utel Communications Inc. announced a massive restructuring designed to slash losses estimated at roughly \$20 million a month. As part of the plan to see Utel, its three shareholders, Rogers Communications Inc., Canadian Pacific Ltd. and style Corp., will pump \$400 million into the company over the next four months. During the

petitors. The Sprint telephone companies have dropped their prices to avoid being

If that market is to operate fairly, the new entrants insist, regulatory changes are urgently needed. For instance, existing CTR rules effectively force United and other companies to pay close to half of their long-distance revenues to established telephone companies. These amounts, known as contribution payments, compensate the telephone

says that questions about the allocation of costs in the long-distance market cannot

is not likely to go away. Late last year, the GAO agreed to re-examine the concerns about the new long-distance companies in comprehensive hearings scheduled to begin in May.

Meanwhile, Rogers—which recently acquired Blackwood Hunter Ltd., the parent company of Maclean's—will be looking for other ways to staunch the bleeding at United. The

die battle, there is almost always strength in numbers.

### PERNATA CURRICULUM

RECEIVED 1997 JAN 22

# Business NOTES



**SUPER BOWL FEVER:** Actors from an upcoming Anheuser-Busch beer commercial rehearse a sequence for a special Super Bowl advertising campaign. More than two dozen surprise advertisers have paid a record average of \$1.6 million for the 60-30-second commercial spots that will air during ABC's Jan. 28 telecast of the National Football League's Super Bowl.

## Dylox shrinks

Toronto-based master Dylox Ltd. filed for protection from its creditors and announced that it will close about 200 of its 867 stores early while and eliminate 1,600 jobs as part of a mass re-financial restructuring plan. Among the orders affected are Freehaver, HiWay, Tip Top Takers and Thrifty's. The company noted, however, that the bankruptcy action does not affect Brannan Apparel, Harry Rosen, Club Monaco and San Remo Knitting Mills, all of which are profitable and self-supporting entities. Dylox, which absorbed a loss of \$10.3 million in the first nine months of 1994, blamed the poor retailing climate, increased taxes, the cut, cross-border shopping and "adverse media reports which created uncertainty about the future" for adding to its financial troubles. It owes about \$88 million to its banks and owes \$100 million to trade creditors.

Some observers suggested that Dylox chair and chief executive officer Wilfred Peltier

may have leached of the restructuring under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act in an attempt to regain his grip on the family-controlled company he founded more than a quarter century ago. Dylox denied the speculation.

## Takeover stalled

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Mary Newbury ruled that Vancouver-based Caslor Corp.'s takeover bid for Slocan Forest Products Ltd. of Richmond, B.C., is invalid because Caslor failed, as agreed, to proceed the offer to avoid circumventing provincial forestry regulations. The company had pledged to revise its offer so it would not have voting rights on Slocan shares until after Forests Minister Andrew Parker had reviewed its proposal. Newbury's decision came hours after a B.C. and Ontario securities commissions ruling that Caslor could proceed with the bid. Caslor's lawyer filed immediate notice but Slocan lawyers said the decision effectively killed the month-long takeover attempt.

## HOUSING MARKET FALLS

Rising interest rates in the fall pulled the rug out from under the shaky housing market, according to figures released by the Canadian Real Estate Association. Resales plunged 21.2 per cent in December, dropping to 9,866 houses sold from 12,421 in the same period in 1993. Meanwhile, new housing starts fell 10.6 per cent from the previous month's level to an annual rate of 136,000 units, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. reported—the lowest level since March, 1991.

## TORY JOINS ROGERS

Rogers Communications Inc., of Toronto appointed Canadian Football League chairman John Tory Jr. as president of Rogers Multimedia Inc., which includes Rogers Broadcasting Ltd., Maclean Hunter Publishing Ltd. and Rogers' holdings in the Toronto Star Publishing Corp., Tory, 46, a managing partner in the Toronto law firm Tory, Teslukowski and Kavanagh, headed the Conservative 1993 federal election campaign.

## SONY BIDS FOR SONY CANADA

Sony Corp. of Japan announced that it has offered Nintendo's Gamecube Inc., its Canadian distributor for nearly 40 years, \$200 million for its 51-per-cent share of Sony Canada Ltd. If the deal is approved, Canada will see yet another \$200-million payment in exchange for a five-year agreement not to compete with Sony Canada. The company would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Japanese parent company.

## CINELIFE EXPANSION

After four years of court cutting, Toronto-based Cinelife Odeon Corp. unveiled major U.S. expansion plans. The company will hit open in 4,000-screen, 16-screen theatre circuit in Seattle by 1996—the second-largest in North America. It also intends to build two new theatres in Chicago and to refurbish a third.

## MILK WARS

Rival dairy producers accused Al Foods Ltd., headquartered in the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke, of misleading marketing because of claims that its newly launched "non-acidified" milk contains "92 times less bacteria" than regular milk. Some industry analysts warn that the new product could undermine consumer confidence in the quality of pasteurized milk and lead to a drop in overall consumption. Al president Donald Freeman said that the company is wrong to "trash" its dairy industry through misleading "dairy technology."

## THE NATION'S BUSINESS



# Martin's \$1-billion defence-spending hit

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

One of the biggest lifts in Paul Martin's budget, due next month, will be a significant reduction in defence spending. Although the defence department—with current annual spending of \$11.5 billion—has absorbed \$2.1 billion in reductions from planned expenditures over the past eight years, as much as another \$1 billion may be cut this year, with at least \$7 billion to be killed off by the end of the decade.

It's a politically troubling decision because military jobs are notoriously sticky in this country; few Canadians outside the military-industrial complex support trimming our troops at a time when no clear and present danger exists. The end of the Cold War certainly should yield a peace dividend. But the notion that we can unilaterally disarm and contribute only peacekeepers to the world's security net is naive and wrong. For one thing, the military is not just an armed force. As Gordon Clarke, who owns a Vancouver bar-chaining company and follows defence matters, maintains, "It is also an instrument of public policy. It creates not only jobs, but more significantly, it builds character and values that are the underpinning of this country's social fabric to do with."

The G7 nations' government's white paper on defence calls for a decrease in military personnel strength from 75,000 to 60,000 by 1998, with another 12,500 (out of 32,500) cutbacks due to be given the go. Despite the deep slashes expected in just about every category, ironclad one of the most important provisions remains on the ground: that will be new helicopters to replace the aging Sea Kings that have become a menace to fly. The new machines will, of course, not be flying Cadillacs like the SR-71s the previous Conservative government procured, but Defence Minister David Colville has recognized that the expensive fleet of major tank trucks under his command are next to useless without their air component.

*We deserve a peace dividend, but the notion that we can contribute only peacekeepers to the world's security net is naive and wrong*

Another item on the protected list is an order for several hundred new armoured personnel carriers, designed to protect our peacekeepers. The single biggest requested increase will probably be the outfitting of half the CF-18 fighter-bomber fleet. Several more modern military bases are due to be closed, but since at least one is in Quebec, that decision will be postponed until after the referendum.

While nothing is impossible in an unstable world, Canada is not about to be lured by anybody, so that most of our Cold War programs can happily be put out to pasture. In a study of how Canada fits into future military trends, conflict analyst Colin Gray of the University of Hull, England, has pointed out that we may be among an interim period, that the Russian revolution is far from finished. That study of defence issues named beyond government, and that nuclear proliferation remains unmanageable. "The cause of greatest security organization in these post-Cold War years," he wrote in a study titled *Canadian in a Dangerous World*, "is triggered by the fact that there is hardly a planner of major talent for attack among the current leaders of the G-7 countries, plus Russia. The ac-

knowledges of the Soviet Union's current military are the product of a new rapidly disappearing post-Cold War honeymoon period in great-power politics, it is not plausible evidence of this growth of effective global response and limitations."

Despite best efforts to reduce their number by the former components of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics themselves, they still hold in reserve 3,500 strategic nuclear warheads. They simply don't have the spare cash to pay for the expensive process of destroying these deadly weapons, and the country's internal climate is growing unpredictable enough that a takeover by the long Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who has threatened to reoccupy France and most of Eastern Europe, isn't he ruled out. Edward Shevchenko, once foreign affairs minister for the former Soviet Union, warned the West that serious threats to peace will exist until Russia completes its democratic transformation and economic reform. That may explain why a dozen former Soviet satellites have applied for space under the NATO "partnership for peace" umbrella. The Korean peninsula and the Muslim crescent, stretching through southwest Asia and into Africa, remain unstable and, according to the latest count, 15 Third World countries have or are in the process of buying the 9230 missiles used in the Iraq war.

None of that has much to do with Canada, except that we can't realistically opt for disarmament in a world that remains cut-throat. The fact that we can't, and shouldn't even try to, with the latest war machine designs doesn't mean we can become disinterested bystanders. Using space-based intelligence-gathering satellites, future generals and admirals will deploy their forces far from the enemy and try to eliminate the hostile forces with precision-guided missiles. That's not for Canada, but we are responsible for our sovereignty, and that means knowing what goes on within our borders and around our shores. At the moment, we don't. One example: on the west coast, there is only one coastal radar installation (in Hatteras, on the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island), less than 100 miles from the Alaska Strait. The Prince Rupert and the Queen Charlotte Islands are blind spots. We still haven't resolved the problem at Arctic sovereignty, and anyone talking about increasing our northward military presence by 50 per cent, as the S&D-26, determined to hand the transfer a parking ticket.

Many years ago, when he was heading the Royal Commission on National Development in Arts, Letters and Sciences, Vincent Massey, who served as Canada's first prime minister, said that Canada's government general, defined until requires the serious issue in any defence debate. "If we as a nation are concerned about the problems of defence," he wrote, "what we say and ourselves, are we defending?" We are debating confidence, not military might. We are not in a position to demand something which we are unwilling to strengthen and enrich."





Wacking out in Montreal:  
There's no time to lose

# Hockey night is back

With the lockout over, the NHL prepares for a short, sweet season

At last! Outside Maple Leaf Gardens, a few Torontoans are walking along the dusty sidewalk looking for the last of the season's "The Leafs Go." The Leafs were not playing that day, in fact, they had not played since last September. Instead, the madcap act of

happy now that hockey's back in town.

Fans could just as easily have turned out. They had, after all, endured one of the ugliest chapters in hockey history. At times, the latter labor dispute resembled one of hockey's most notorious training drills, called stops and starts, in which skaters race madly

between the lines of the rink in a grueling reaction of two steps forward, one step back. Throughout most of the negotiations, however, two steps forward and one step back would have been an improvement. Long before it was resolved, the clash had lost its credibility as a courteous challenge and supposed "trial" offers passed without producing an agreement. The two sides came progressively close to canceling the entire season over issues that, to millions of fans who wish they could make a living as skaters, seemed rather petty.

"It's really hard for the average person in North America to understand why athletes complain and bicker over the kind of money they are making," said Wayne Gretzky of the Los Angeles Kings. "Consequently, the image of our sport is probably going to suffer for a while." But for all their frustration, fans are generally so forgiving

## THE DEAL

**Terms:** Expires Sept. 15, 2005. But if the league or the players choose, either side can reopen it at the end of the 2007-2008 season.

**Details:** Players are automatically eligible at age 18, although 18-year-olds have the right to be drafted.

**Entry-level compensation:** The minimum annual salary for rookies in the 1995 draft is \$850,000; the scale rises to \$1,075,000 by the year 2000.

**Unrestricted free agency:** Players 32 or older can sign with any team at the end of their contract during the first three years of the new agreement during the final three years, they become free agents at 31.

**Salary arbitration:** Most players are eligible for arbitration in their first five years in the league. Arbitration is not completely binding; clubs are allowed to walk away from three award decisions every two years, making the players free agents.



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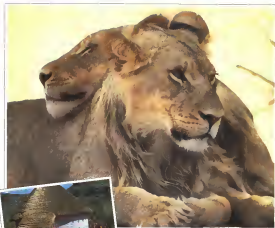
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lot. Just as they had after protracted disputes in other sports, they welcomed the NHL's return, particularly in Canada where not having a game to watch on Saturday night was like missing an old friend. Knowing that, the arbitrator at a 1999 Montreal-Boston playoff game on Jan. 7, drew an average of 1.09 million viewers—comparable to the audience for live contests. And the network plans to air three games in two nights—one on Jan. 23, a doubleheader the following night—to capstone an air-worthy event. While the players may be ready at first, most claim that the upcoming short season will never threaten to meet "With a 48-game schedule, it's like the playoffs start with the first game," and Patrick Roy, the veteran Montreal starliner. "There's no time to lose."

The deal that saved the season was designed to meet the owners' basic aim of slowing down increases in player salaries. Over the past five years, the average NHL income has doubled to \$600,000 a year. And while that is less than half the average in baseball and basketball, teams in Quebec City, Hartford and Winnipeg, among others, claimed it was too much for their franchises. As a result, the owners pushed to create a payroll tax on high-earner-average payoffs in the early stages of the negotiations. The players rejected the tax as a salary cap, and when their chief negotiator, Bob Goodenow, flatly rejected the concept, the owners shut down the season last Oct. 1. It was only after three months of fruitless talks that the league took the tax off the table—against the wishes of a group of hardline owners—and the eventual agreement took shape.

Even without the payroll tax, however, most analysts agree this latest labor fight is a victory for the owners. All but one item in the final agreement—unrestricted free agency at age 32, leaving a player free to sign with any team—is a significant concession by the players from the terms of the previous agreement. Items such as binding arbitration (a third party decides a player's salary), which the owners said helped to drive up salaries, have been ceded to the owners' favor. The players also agreed to a modest salary cap which the owners wanted to starve the salary bonanza incident of huge franchise contracts paid to such recent newcomers as Eric Lindros (\$5 million in 1992) and Alexander Daigle (\$2.25 million for five years starting in 1993). And while NHL players did win unrestricted free agency, it was a somewhat hollow victory: only a small number of players have careers lengthy enough to take advantage of their new freedom.

"This isn't going to prevent collusion, by any stretch of the imagination," said Vancouver Canucks owner Arthur Griffin. "What it will do is force teams to get a budget and stick to it."

While owners supported the deal by a vote of 18 to 7, the dissenters continued to grumble about the league's failure to renegotiate a payroll

## The commissioner looks ahead

Although NHL commissioner Gary Bettman did not see the salary cap or payroll tax that the owners had demanded, he did accept major concessions from the players—about as the only of his for the NHL season. An agreement with the NHL's former President James Dugan only hours after the new deal was struck last week, a savvy Bettman looked back on the negotiations and ahead to the league's future prospects.

**Maclean's:** What good has come out of the lockout?

**Bettman:** This arrangement with the players gives us greater stability than this league has ever had, and with this stability as a cornerstone, we can begin to build the fan base. We think that the

Maclean's: The league set out to keep payroll in check. Did you achieve that? Bettman: If we didn't think it was workable, it would not have been accepted. Would it be as good for the overall growth and stability of the league as a salary cap or a payroll tax? Time will tell. This system has many good features. While it might not prevent certain teams from spending more on salaries than other teams, the system does enable each team to decide how much it wants to spend on salaries and stick to it if it chooses. The old system, especially because of arbitration, did not permit that.

Maclean's: Will the league try to regain the currency differential for Canadian money paying U.S. dollar salaries, and prevent small-market clubs?

**Bettman:** What we have promised to do is to study the issue very carefully and to try to come up with a framework that the league would be comfortable with in deal with these problems.

Maclean's: Do you plan to add new franchise?

**Bettman:** We periodically get expressions of interest, but I always and that I couldn't talk about it while I was in collective bargaining. I am still not prepared to focus on that.

Maclean's: Do you envision an eventual push into Europe?

**Bettman:** There are great opportunities abroad and we are beginning to pursue them, but the main effort has to be to make sure that North America is strongly behind hockey. Before the National Basketball Association went to the 1992 Olympics, the league had spent many years making sure that it was strong and popular in the United States.

Maclean's: Now that the deal is signed, what next?

**Bettman:** The engine has not to be restarted because all of our marketing and promotion and everything else we had in the market has all been put on hold. We came out in the last season with a great deal of momentum in terms of the growth of the sport. I don't believe that momentum was killed—it was put on hold—by the time that we got to the 1995 playoffs, we should be back up and running on all cylinders.

Maclean's: Does the rift in the owners' ranks pose a threat to your job security?

**Bettman:** My job is to try to get a consensus, and that's what we have tried to do. If the owners decide that they are not happy with the job I am doing, then they should tell me that and get somebody else.



Bettman (left) and Goodenow's stability

prospects for all of our franchises, with a couple of exceptions, are excellent, and our new television arrangements with Molson in Canada, with Fox and with Nike and Anheuser-Busch and other corporations will allow us to reach out to more people and turn them on to the game of hockey.

Maclean's: The lockout about player-management relations. Can that relationship be mended?

**Bettman:** We must come together with the players—it is in our mutual interest to do that—and we can and will work together for the betterment of hockey.

has to work three-splendiferous "I appreciate," said Marcell Aabadi of the Quebec Nordiques, "that the majority of the industry can live with the agreement that was negotiated. But it's difficult to accept for a small market such as Quebec." Bettsman, however, said the owners opted for the correct terms when they examined the alternatives. "If all 30 owners had said that they had to have a tax or a cap, we could have pursued them, but on my judgment it would have cost the entire season," Bettsman said. "Many people, including me, thought that if there was a way to give some of the owners what they should be doing."

Still, the owners did lose something in the negotiations. Player-owner relations have traditionally been more congenial in hockey than in other sports: the willingness of the lockout may well spell that somewhere in many teams. And while the deal should help keep a lid on ticket prices, NHL hockey is already too pricey for some. Don Miller, a 47-year-old RCMP sergeant from Vancouver, complains that the best seats at the Pacific Coliseum cost \$65.00. "It's getting to be average Canadian wealth is able to afford to go to hockey games," said Miller.

The length of the deal—six years, with each side allowed to renegotiate after the fourth year—guarantees labor peace at least until the summer of 1996. That price gambol the league and its owners hope will allow the sport a chance to make gains in North America and overseas—and give owners and players time to assess whether they can live with the new deal. The league must also address a problem unique to Canadian clubs, which continue to operate at a severe disadvantage because of the falling value of the Canadian dollar. The Canadian Gazette says that last U.S.-dollar payroll totals \$18 million, while he takes in only \$13.5 million in U.S. currency from TV and merchandise sales. League executives have promised to examine the issue, but offered no guarantee.

While a lockout was subverted, the lock-out itself was a killer. Players, owners, agents, commentators and bar owners, among others, all lost 36 games' worth of salaries, pay receipts, TV revenues, and beer and vending sales. Frank Borman, director of sales and marketing at the Clarendon Hotel in Quebec City, said the landmark hotel missed the income generated by housing visiting teams—at least \$5,000 per team per visit, she said. Now that the Nordiques are back, she added, "it's a sigh of relief for everyone."

And only just in time. The lockout had cast a dark cloud over what should have been hockey's season in the sun. For evidence of good timing as much as good management, hockey has recently flourished in the United States. A boom in the outer leagues, the NHL's expansion into the Southwest and the remarkable popularity of inline skates have made the game accessible to millions of Americans who had once viewed "ice hockey" as the pastime of a frozen few. Capitalizing on the emerging interest in the sport, Fox Broadcasting, the sport's first net-

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work, signed a five-year, \$212-million contract to run NHL regular season and playoff games, starting this month. "Hopefully, we'll win over the fans we had and we won't see fans that we don't have," Gritsky said. "I guess that's what we can all count on."

The two main contestants, Goodnow and Bettman, also seemed happy to put the dispute behind them. They waged their battle with 13 professionalists leading by league lawyers—Goodnow of Harvard versus Bettman of Cornell. But while it is fair to say that the owners gained the most from the contract fight, Goodnow did not lose the war. He performed the extraordinary feat of keeping about 700 members informed and, with only one or two exceptions, in line with the association's elected leadership. And once the players got in against the playoff rule, the association never wavered. "Anyone who doesn't respect Bob, or further endorse his future as our executive director, is crazy," said Marty McInerney, a defenseman with the Los Angeles Kings.

While Bettman was hired away from the National Basketball Association in February, 1993, the owners handed him a to-do list headed by three major tasks left unaddressed during the 15-year tenure of John Ziegler: bring order to the league's chaotic New York City headquarters, set a U.S. schedule that doesn't negotiate a new, owner-friendly collective agreement with the players. Toss his office, admit he performed the first two tasks admirably. Now, he has managed the third, although during negotiations some players and reporters had painted New York's Bettman as the villain—a hardwood baseball on this ice in hockey. It was not until the final stages, when it was clear that Bettman was fighting to save the season against the sentiments of some of his hardest masters, that his career underwent some rehabilitation. Toronto Blue Jays president Paul Bissonnette, whose team remains staid as baseball lingers because of an unresolved players' strike, admitted to being grateful to the NHL settlement. "You have to look it to Goodnow and Bettman for getting the deal done," Bettman said. "That's no easy task in sports these days."

This week, after months of threats, deadlines and "final, final, final, final" offers (to the words of Boston Bruins president Harry Sinden), the fans finally have their game back. The players have exchanged their white suits and ties for pads and skates. Without pressure games to assist, some handicappers trying to pick a favorite team have overlooked the historic precedent that, in 1941-1942—the last time the NHL played a 56-game season—the Maple Leafs defeated the Detroit Red Wings for the Stanley Cup. That is enough to make even optimistic Torontoans to even greater heights of over-optimism. That 25 other teams will have something to say about that before the Stanley Cup is awarded next June.

JAMES BEACON with DON RAHALLEKIA in Toronto

# Backpack

## A monthly report on personal health, life and leisure

It was the third day of the Persian Gulf War and frustration was building among the many Western journalists staying at Baghdad's Al-Basra Hotel. One of the many frustrations that had frustrated the stay the night before had blown up the Sunday telecommunications centre, leaving them incapable of transmitting stories about the fighting to news organizations back home. Fortunately, news was correspondents Peter Ansett at CNN had an ace up his sleeve. He went to the room his network was using to store supplies, showed article boxes of canned data and pulled out a small satellite containing a satellite telephone—502,000 worth of technology that gave him the power to call anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world. Within minutes, Ansett got through to CNN's central bureau in Atlanta—and millions of North Americans were listening to his account of the destruction all around him.

Four years later, a more compact version of Ansett's satellite phone is about to be offered to consumers at a fraction of the cost of his handset. From today's new digital cellular phones to the impending arrival of next-generation satellite technology to futuristic cordless communications systems and beyond, the capabilities of reaching out and reaching someone are becoming truly astounding.

Nach has changed since the cellular phone made its debut in Canada in the summer of 1985. Slightly larger and bulkier than a beer bottle, the original cellular phone is now referred to as "the brick" by industry insiders. It was hideously expensive—better models cost upwards of \$2,000—and the reception often sounded as if one or both parties were calling from inside a car wreck.

Contrast that with today's cellular phones, which start at about \$80 (they are a third of the size, allowing many to be slipped comfortably into a jacket pocket); the Motorola Microtac II, currently the smallest phone in the world, weighs less than a D-size battery. More important than the cellular phone's diminishing cost and size, however, is its expanding capability.

Cellular phones are actually radio transmitters. Up to now, each have used a relatively low-tech analog method of transmission, which modulates the radio signals in a wave pattern so they can

# BEYOND CELLULAR



Mitsubishi's Berry Krangel with mobile satellite terminal: full coverage

carry voice information. Digital cellular transmission—a more sophisticated version that only became widely available this year—turns the signal information into a series of digital bits, reconverts them into an understandable language at the receiving end.

What's the difference? For one thing, each radio channel can carry only one analog call at a time—compared with three calls using digital technology. If using is a language, digital is a three-story house, both occupy the same area, but digital has three times the capacity. This expansion of digital frequency capacity allows cellular carriers—Canada's only two are Bell Mobility and Rogers Cable Inc.—to increase the number of users, without running out of calling capacity. And with the current 1.5 million cellular users in Canada expected to double by the year 2000, more efficient use of the spectrum is vital.

Digital phones offer advantages to users as well, including greater privacy (digital signals are far more difficult to intercept and decode), longer battery life and better voice quality. The latest

models eliminate most static and background noise—the buzz of many cellular callers—and will terminate the call entirely if interference becomes too great for the phone to handle.

"Think of analog like a car radio," says Joe Smerco, vice-president of network services at Bell Mobility. "As you're driving away from the city, radio stations become less and less clear and they disappear entirely. On a digital system, the signal would either come in clearly or not at all."

For now, digital cellular phones are slightly larger and cost about \$300 to \$500 more than their analog counterparts. Smerco predicts that digital technology will completely replace analog within the next 15 years as analog owners slowly opt for their hardware to take advantage of new products and services.

By that point, however, the satellite phone will be an increasingly important tool in voice communication. Planned for over a decade in Canada at the end of 1986, satellite technology will allow users to call anywhere in North America—from Arctic regions to an island in the New Mexico. Currently, cellular service is available to 67 per cent of Canadians, but in geographic terms that is less than 25 per cent of the country. With satellites, every square inch of territory will be accessible. The technology is similar to radio, except that the radio transmitter is a satellite, orbiting 22,000 miles above the equator. Because it is so high up, it can cover a greater area, without signal interference due to the curvature of the Earth.

TM Communications, the only company in Canada currently designated to operate a mobile satellite communication network, is planning to launch its S128-compliant satellite next December. By the end of this month, anyone with \$3,000 to spare can acquire a handset, a computer system and a transceiver, giving access to telephone service anywhere in continental North America and up to 400 miles offshore. "This will be shown to people who live in spread areas, remote locations," says James Downey, TM's corporate communications manager. "Seasonal fishing camps, remote cottages, camping and canoe trips—people who enjoy these things will now have the added security and convenience of being in touch with civilization."

They'll also have the accuracy of knowing that satellite communications are all but impossible to listen in on, unless the provincial eavesdropper has spent several million dollars on his own downlinking Earth station.

At a predicted calling cost of 82 to 83 a minute—compared with between 40 cents and \$1 for cellular service—not everyone will want a satellite phone, at least not at first. But Mitsubishi and Westinghouse, the two companies that TM has licensed to manufacture the phones, are currently shipping handsets that flip back and forth from cellular to satellite service as the flick of a switch. Users could opt for the cheaper method within cellular territory, but take advantage of full satellite coverage when necessary. "We don't see satellite technology as an alternative to cellular, but rather a complement to it," says Canelec CEO David Gempica.

Satellite coverage will not be limited to one coastline forever. American space systems giant Hughes Inc. has teamed up with telecommunications giant Telebyte Inc. to create Orbitalview, a global satellite phone system that uses a network of 12 satellites hovering above the Earth

for introduction in 1993. Orbitalview will allow its users to place anywhere in the world at a cost that the company claims will compare favourably with cellular service.

What will they think of next? The 30,000 employees of Bell North America Research (BNR) are working on the answer. At the company's world headquarters in Ottawa and 13 research labs around the globe, work is under way to conceive and build tools for the next step in communication, labelled Personal Communications Networks (PCN).

"Communications has always been focused on the phone, not the person, and PCs will change all that," says Dave Robertson, assistant vice-president of personal communication and small systems technology at BNR. "Right now, people call places, not other people." They call different numbers—a home, a car, a cottage, an office—hoping to reach someone, and according to BNR the chance of missing that person on the first call is greater than 70 per cent.

When PCs are fully realized sometime in the first decade of the next century, it will be possible to assign everyone a personal directory number that will be used to locate them anywhere in the world. The caller will simply dial a person's number and the network will find that person and route the call accordingly to whatever equipment is available. From a wireless phone to a computer terminal. "Wireless technology is the key to PCs," says Robertson. "It allows people to move around and to control their telecommunications destiny."

BNR is looking to shape that destiny by developing prototypes for a series of five wireless phones that could either be strapped around the wrist, hung from the neck like a pendant, clipped onto a shirt collar or worn as a headset. They will be available sometime before the end of the decade, and their uses are infinite. Children playing in the park could be telephoned when dinner is ready. At home, each family member could make calls simultaneously on his or her own phone. Because they would be designed for hands-free operation, the user could ride his bike to the mall, get through the latest releases at the music store and ride home, with no break in conversation.

Even more striking is a wristworn wireless device that tracks calls. Orbital, which will use video-mosaic images and a touch-sensitive screen to perform an array of functions. Set for release by the turn of the century, it will send some information to the user's computer. It will send and receive e-mail; it will receive fax; it will act as a computer printer and organizer. It will even make a phone call.

The range of possibilities is truly limitless. Whether people will actually embrace this expanding technology, of course, is yet to be determined. Some speculate, director of services planning and development for Bell Mobility, acknowledges that the new technology will only succeed if it fulfils a genuine need. "It can't just be technology for technology's sake," he says. BNR's Robertson agrees. "There are a lot of things we have the capability to do right now, but the question is, do we need them? People have to be emotionally and psychologically ready for these changes, because changing the world people live in can really scare them. We have to remember the human equation in all this." Anyone who has ever been annoyed by someone talking loudly at a coffee house in the middle of a crowded restaurant knows exactly what he means.

SARAH CUTHBERT

# Backpack

## A closer look

When baby boomers were kids, they were taught that an apple a day kept the doctor away.

Now, a growing number of boomers are going back to work on the ravages of age. Introduced about two years ago, skin creams containing alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs) derived from fruit, milk and sugar cane are now among the most popular cosmetics on the market, sold to men, women and even children at prices as high as \$90 for a 50-ml jar. Some doctors and aestheticians offer more concentrated treatments in the form of face peels, for as much as \$150 a session. Canadian consumers are so taken by claims that AHAs can erase the early signs of aging that they will shell out an estimated \$100 million on them this year. "AHAs are the biggest push in skin care in many years," says Aron Canale fac. spokesman Jon Dama. "It's a marketing phenomenon."

But despite their popularity, evidence that fruit acids live up to their billing is anything

but conclusive. Moreover, their uncontrolled use is causing alarm in some medical circles. The federal health department is now examining the use of AHA products to determine whether concentrations of higher than 10 per cent are safe when applied without medical supervision. Plus, over the counter preparations contain less than that, while doctors and aestheticians generally use higher levels.

The bureau assigned a researcher to the project in October after receiving 115 reports of chemical burns, skin discoloration and scarring when patients were treated with high concentrations by untrained and unsupervised aestheticians. And although many dermatologists use AHAs on their patients, others



■ Patient undergoing an AHA face peel—confusion

say there is no proof that they are any more beneficial than a scrub with a washcloth or a good moisturizer.

"The great marketing ploy of the last several years has been alpha hydroxy acids,"

says Dr. Daniel Sauter, who heads the University of Toronto's dermatology program. Still, even Sauter uses acids in his own practice at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre—in large part, he says, because so many people ask for them. He adds that his patients generally have a "rosier" complexion immediately after an AHA peel, although he suspects that is because the acid irritates their skin. There may also be a placebo effect. "If you come to me and I say, 'I've got the fountain of youth—put this on and you will glow,' you will glow," Sauter says.

Most experts agree that AHA-based creams act as an exfoliant by removing the top layers of dead skin and stimulating the growth of new skin. Promoters, however, go even further, claiming that AHAs change the structure of sun-aged skin so that the cells have greater cohesion. The result, they say, is skin that is smoother and softer with fewer fine wrinkles.

In marketing their products, cosmeceutical companies point to the mythical beauty of Cleopatra. Legend has it that the Egyptian queen preserved her youthful appearance by bathing in milk—which contains lactic acid, one form of AHA. The commercial possibilities of such acids, however, went unrecognized until the 1930s, when Philadelphia dermatologist Dr. Eugene Van Scott reported that AHA-based creams produced noticeable improvements in the texture of sun-damaged skin.

Cosmetic companies have since lavished money on additional research. Some studies suggest that AHAs can improve a skin's skin

across known as wrinkles. Others suggest that the acids stimulate the production of collagen—a protein that forms part of the skin's structural framework. "People like them because they work," says dermatologist Dr. John Goldstar, whose Facial Rejuvenation Centre in Toronto performs as many as 30 AHA peels a week at \$135 each. Goldstar's patients usually receive four to six treatments at one-month intervals, followed by additional peels at intervals of between

Are the latest  
'miracle' skin  
products too good  
to be true?

two and four months for as long as the patient wishes to maintain the effect. The full treatment can cost as much as \$600 a year.

Still, many dermatologists are unconvinced. Sauter warns that only a handful of AHA studies have been accepted for publication by scientific journals, and in many of those the number of samples was too small to prove anything. The most comprehensive study will not be completed until late this year. Sponsored by pharmaceutical giant Bristol Myers Squibb, it involves 200 patients across North America, who will be randomly

treated with either a placebo or a cream containing 10 per cent lactic acid. In the meantime, consumers are largely unprotected. Because they are classed as cosmetics, AHAs can be used by anyone without supervision. Sauter, for one, says that he has seen cases in which people suffered burns from high-concentration AHA peels applied by untrained aestheticians. The issue is further complicated because current regulations do not require detailed labelling. Dr. Pierre Beaud, president of the Association of Dermatologists of Quebec, says that he believes AHAs can temporarily smooth the skin, but only in concentrations of at least eight per cent—more than most over-the-counter preparations. Canadian authorities hope to straighten out some of the confusion early this year. Dr. Brian Gilchrist, chief of drug evaluation at Health Canada's bureau of non-prescription drugs, says his department is now considering whether the sale of AHAs should be regulated. If the answer is yes, manufacturers would be forced to put detailed labels on their products and offer proof of their safety and effectiveness.

For now, Gilchrist advises consumers to talk to their doctors before using high-concentration AHA products. And he recommends approaching the cosmetics counter with a healthy dose of skepticism. "It sounds as if it's miraculous," he says, "maybe people should look a little bit closer."

ANITA ELIAS

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# Backpack Calendar

Taking the chill off winter with festivals, outdoor games and Canada's longest sled-dog race

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Jan. 28-Feb. 6** Peter Green, Queen Elizabeth Theatre: Canadian actor Ben Harper stars in the Vancouver Opera production of Benjamin Britten's tragedy *Jan. 28-30* Chinese New Year Festival: Plaza of Nations, Vancouver: Three days of music and dance celebrating the upcoming Year of the Goat.

**Jan. 28-Feb. 5** Sea Festival, Nanaimo: Displays, races of the Island Phoenix, watercraft pull and boat races to watch as teams from Alaska and California compete for their annual heat on the harbor of North Vancouver Island.

## ALBERTA

**Jan. 20-22** International Ice Sculpture Competition, Chateau Lake Louise: Carvings by Canadian, American, and Japanese teams remain on display until March, clockwise permitting.

**Jan. 21-Feb. 26** playbills, Calgary: The Theatre Project's latest showcase of new Canadian drama, presented by Alberta Theatre Projects, features readings, workshop productions and a screenplay competition.

**Jan. 27-Feb. 5** Banff Winter Festival: A celebration of outdoor sports and recreation, including the Mountain Madness relay race and a torchlight parade.

## SASKATCHEWAN

**Feb. 4-11** Wildcat Marathon Marathon, Hudson Bay: The third annual edition of Canada's longest winter race (a qualifying event for the Alaskan Iditarod), the Olympics of all sled-dog races, runs 800 km through Wildcat Hill Provincial Wilderness Park and surrounding forests. About 50 hardy contenders will spend a week in temperatures as low as -40° C, competing for the \$3,600 first prize.

## MANITOTA

**Feb. 4-5** Remise, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg

## Mice on ice

I cannot be one when they say about Canadians—that they are among the hardest people on earth. How else to explain the proliferation of carnivals, festivals and exhibitions designed to celebrate the Canadian winter? This month and next, in communities as large as Calgary and as small as Aberdeen, P.E.I., Canadians can be found taking sleigh rides, skimming ice sculptures and skating on frozen ponds and rivers, their tails (and hands) wrapped around steaming cups of hot chocolate.

The granddaddy of winter celebrations, of course, takes place in Quebec City. Now in its 41st year, the Quebec Winter Carnival is the oldest such event in the country, and the largest in the world. Despite the recent proliferation of other winter parties across the country, the popularity of Quebec's carnival is unswerving. Attendance for the 10-day event has held steady at about one million people for the past five years,

Hollywood star Krista Reeves leads the Castro's actors on a Shakespearean adventure.

**Jan. 20-26** New Music Festival, Continental Concert Hall, Winnipeg: The festival, which features works by such modern composers as Canadian Composer of the Year Arlene Lurie and the Grammy Award-winning John Corigliano, also includes the Canadian Composers Competition. Three finalists will have their works performed by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and broadcast live on CBC Stereo as they vie for \$15,000 in prizes.

## ONTARIO

**Jan. 11-22** Shakespeare's Death-Forever: O'Keefe Centre, Toronto: The Canadian Opera Company's latest



■ Frolicking at the Quebec Winter Carnival unwavering popularity

and total revenues (relative to the \$50 million).

"We love the experience that our carnival just can't have," says carnival president Sylvie Dubé. "There's a certain European cachet to Quebec City, as well as historical architecture, excellent restaurants and hotels, wonderful skiing. We're not dominated by the others. As a matter of fact, we see them as partners as much as competitors. We all prosper to some extent in Canada."

Also promoting the beauty of the Canadian winter this year is one other fact that everyone's favorite American rodent, Mickey Mouse. Much to the joy of his Walt Disney friends will perform a daily show on the ice coast, as well as appearing at several events with cartoon mascot Le Minion. "We're very excited," says Tremblay. "It's another way we're trying to add more pleasure to the carnival."



■ Chinese New Year parade: Year of the Rat

locally celebrated? Benik and Schenker double bill directed by Quebec's Robert LePage.

**Feb. 2-10** Occasional, the National Arts Centre, Ottawa: David Manes's controversial play about sexual harassment on campus.

**Feb. 2-5, 10-12 and 17-19** Ottawa Winter

fest: The capital's winter festival consists of more than 17 events, including dining rooms along the Rideau Canal, ice carving and the Ottawa Civic Hospital ice car

pool. Ice sculptures for the Tobacconist's First Sculpture and Sculpture's Place Concert in No. 4.

## NOVA SCOTIA

**Jan. 22-22** Open Studio Series: Dance Nova Scotia, Halifax: Canadian choreographers present a showcase of contemporary dance. The series includes a new work by the Halifax Street Theatre.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Feb. 24-26** Albertan Spudder Winter Carnival: Four days of winter frolics, crowned by Spudder, the half potato, half winter carnival mascot, are highlighted by a leucocyst date and a sleigh party.

## NEWFOUNDLAND

**Jan. 20-22** Bay Bulls Winter Carnival: The seventh annual event focuses on children's activities, from ice skating to ice hockey, and a sleigh party.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Feb. 2-8** Northern Winter Games, Gjoa Haven: The King William Island community (1,900 km due north of Winnipeg) hosts the regional finals in Arctic sports, including the one-and-a-half-hour hockey, the level jump, level pull and other traditional local competitions.

## YUKON

**Jan. 29** Calgary Reiter Fashion Show: Canada's Centre, Whitehorse: The Yukon designer, a favorite of Hollywood stars, presents 65 garments from her spring collection.

## NEXT

A sampling of upcoming diversions

## MOVIES

**Death and the Maiden** Horacio Posner directs Ben Kingsley and Sigourney Weaver in a drama about the chance reunion of a survivor and his former victim. **The Quick and the Dead** Sharon Stone plays a dangerous gunslinger on her way to a quick draw tournament put on by Gene Hackman. **Days on the Edge** Patricia Richardson, Mary-Louise Parker and Drew Barrymore star in a dark-road road movie. **Before Sunset** David and Andrew director Richard Linklater brings the two main characters from *Before Sunrise* to a reunion about two strangers on a train to Mexico. **Wonder in the First Christian State** Kevin Bacon and Gary Oldman in a period drama about Alcatraz.

## VIDEO

**The Mask** Among the hit movie's special effects is the singularly fast-lane of Canadian comic Jim Carrey. **Orlando** English director Sally Potter's stylish, enigmatic adaptation of the Virginia Woolf classic on androgyny. **La femme d'Alfred** Quebecer Benoit Gosselin in the role of an adolescent girl and her transsexual father. **Natural Born Killers** Oliver Stone's heavy hand puts his subjects' psychotic relationship between murderers and the media. **Wolf** Having built his career on a savage character, Jack Nicholson takes his most brutal run wild.

## BOOKS

**An Anthropologist on Mars** Oliver Sacks (Harcourt). The author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* offers a new look at the human mind. **The Last House on the Left** A Family in the North (Harcourt). A Montreal woman's relationship with a Northern Irish family allows her an intimate look at the troubles besetting the country. **Lip Service: Challenging the Sexual Script of the Modern Woman** Kate Filson-Hopwood (Harcourt). A journalist explores what playing women want in a time of confusing sexual politics.

**The Unsaid Life of Tristram Smith** Peter Carey (Random House). The Australian novelist creates a fictional, culturally unmovable world. **See Me Evil** Isabel Webster (Flood) and **Whoring Trick**, Irving Pinsky (Gardner). Two books by Peter Carey, a Canadian of Canadian descent, are published by the same publisher.

## AUDIO

**This Child** Susan Aglukook (Jive). The sweet-sounding singer's follow-up to the acclaimed *Arctic Rose* *My Love* (Jive). The Pol-Musique Group (Jive). Adventure jazz guitarist Melvin Davis' digital sampling and other technological tricks to his band's vibrant sound. **Icon** (Chor of Kings of College, Cambridge) (Jive). Words by the popular, spiritual, spiritual composer Henryk Górecki, Anna Pini and John Tavener. **Curry the Day** Henryk Górecki (Jive). A new release from the pop-sophisticated and purveyor of progressive jazz. **Unhappy** (Bob Dylan) (Sony). A pop-soul goes back to his roots.

Star Keanu Reeves takes on  
Hamlet, one of Shakespeare's  
toughest roles, in Winnipeg

# Keanu's Excellent Adventure

BY LYLE SLACK

When the Manitoba Theatre Centre made its international last spring, the idea seemed just that of bad cinema—Keanu Reeves, an guitar player extraordinaire, would perform the title role in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Were they planning some experimental production, entitled *A Prince's Excellent Adventure*? The melodramatic Dane as a rock star?

Well, no. Both the Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC) and Reeves, the 26-year-old star of such featherweight entertainment as *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, *Point Break* and the blockbuster *Speed*, were dead serious. "Shakespeare," rhapsodized Reeves last summer, "is physically thrilling. It goes to my brain and to my heart." Last week, ticket holders from as far away as Argentina and Australia—well critics from *The Sun* and *The Guardian* in London—got to see just what constitutes the heart of Keanu's *Hamlet* when he took to the stage in Winnipeg (page 54).

From the start, MTC artistic director Steven Schipper understood the skepticism: "Keanu's had a very successful film career, because that's what he's pursued," he says. "But I have no doubt he'd be pursued a career on stage, he would have established an equally impressive body of work." No doubt Schipper is sincere in that belief. No doubt he was also aware of the public relations bonanza not to mention box-office sales, that would likely follow the casting of Reeves in a major MTC production. As it turned out, probably not even Schipper could have guessed that Reeves fans from 60 different



Reeves, at Speed (below) and in Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure (left), his performances have been mostly one-dimensional

clans, from as far away as China, would order tickets. Schipper first auditioned Reeves when he was a 16-year-old kid just starting out in Toronto. The director was looking for a partner for a Sam Shereard play he was mounting at Toronto's First Theatre. And while Reeves turned out to be too tall for the part, Schipper recalls that he was "wowed by his talent—by his humanity, his sensitivity. And he had extraordinary courage, to go for it, whatever the situation."

And so 12 years and 16 major motion pictures later, Schipper finally offered Reeves a role—say what he wanted, name as few. Reeves contacted an old friend and associate, Toronto-based stage director Lewis Ransford, who is directing Reeves in the current production. "It's so easy for people to look at an actor, to say he can do this and only this—particularly in film. But Keanu's not the first that has happened to it happened to Tom Cruise for the longest time—until people eventually conceded, no, this is a serious young man. I think Keanu's time will come."

Not everyone agrees. And to many it is a mystery why Reeves, in young and inexperienced as stage, would take on a role seemingly doomed to the ultimate test of a serious actor's mettle. They wonder, too, why he would risk such a public failure just when the runaway success of the hoody-trapped bus movie *Speed* has catapulted him into the status of hot new action hero complete with a perfume line of as much as \$1 million.

But then, much about Reeves is a mystery. In an industry where a prepubescent home and showy automobile are de rigeur, he lives in a hotel room and does not own a car. Instead, he roams the streets of Los Angeles, often in the early morning hours, on a beloved 1954 Norton Commando English touring motorcycle. And although *Speed* has dubbed him "not just a star" but "Hollywood's hottest heartthrob," Reeves has never been linked publicly with a steady girlfriend. Conversely, although his good looks have helped cushion a vocal cry following that their idol is not heterosexual, Reeves has not denied that in *Entertainment* magazine four years ago, copy adding: "But you never know."

Reeves, through his personal manager, declined an interview with *Maxim's*. But others who have known the screen star since he was a fledgling Toronto actor believe they have some keys to understanding Keanu.

He was born on Sept. 2, 1964, in Beirut, the only child of "Indochinese" parents, as he has described them. His mother, Patric, was English, his father, Samuel Neilson Reeves, a geologist of Hawaiian Chinese descent. His parents divorced when Keanu was an infant, and in 1970 Patric married Paul Adams, an American stage and film director. Keanu was 6, and they lived in New York City, where Aaron directed off-Broadway musicals starring, among others, the not-yet-known Bette Midler. But Patric was convinced that Keanu and his younger sister, Kim, grow up in a more family-friendly environment, and they all soon moved to Toronto. There, Patric continued her work as a costume designer for celebrities including Dolly Parton and Alice Cooper. Keanu attended downtown Jesse Reisdorf public school and remembers a mostly well-behaved childhood building go-carts. "We did slush chestnuts at teachers'





# Keanu, prince of Denmark

## HAMLET

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Leon Rosenzweig

It is a daunting role for any actor, no matter how talented. Master Osgood (David Day Lewis) once walked onstage during a London performance of *Hamlet*, never to return. Since Keanu is on David Day Lewis' And on opening night in Winnipeg last week, as Reeves prepared to make his second theatrical role, anticipation was running high. Local TV crews combed the crowded lobby at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, hoping to line up instant post-play reactions from out-of-town critics. Keanu contacted a local business in black Hamlet T-shirts sporting Keanu's image on the front and a Shakespeare quote on the back: "To thine own self be true."



Reeves: As Hamlet, Keanu looks like he talks

Hamlet is, quite simply, one of the most beloved stage works in Western history. And during the play's five-week rehearsal period, the star who fell to death in the Manitoba capital seemed to excite everyone, from crew members to people in the street. They said he is friendly, humble, accessible, down-to-earth. And, above all, brave to take on *Hamlet*. They worried about him, as if he were attempting a daredevil stunt. How on earth would he do it? How would he remember all those lines? Well, he did remember his lines. In fact, at times he recited them very quickly, like a schoolboy dying to get to the end. Perhaps it was just springing into action, but Reeves moved through some lines at such a clip that the stage was almost unbearable. He whipped through the soliloquies, the signature lines of Hamlet, as if they were air-guitar solos. Locked into Shakespeare's acidic personality, he snarled from one character to the next, faster and faster. He said the play as if it were word to blow up someone's car.

But it was not a performance that deserves harsh criticism. Although he was out of his depth in the big speeches of text, Reeves proved adept at the comic scenes. And whenever he had a chance to get physical, he was impressive. There was something intriguing about his presence. The enormous likability, the sleek, sense of disconnection that he projects and his subtle efforts to overcome it—these qualities make him a more suitable choice for Hamlet than he might at first seem.

The Winnipeg production is a handsome one. Debra Hanson's costume has an old-fashioned splendour. Brian Perchuk's set consists of breeding, stained walls with flower-like stains and arches. The production opens with an imaginative tableau, a "dumb show" in which a dead Hamlet stands next to his father's corpse, while above him Gertrude (Gloria Martin) and Claudius (Stephen Russell) make love beneath scarlet sheets. But it is a false promise. For the play then ties into a traditional and an provocative interpretation.

Reeves has little impact until he acts out Hamlet's madness. Dressed in tattered breeches and sun boots, the actor seems visibly relieved by the work's possibility. And as he greets Rosencrantz and Guildenstern as "my excellent good friends," a note from the audience underscores the inevitable outcome to *Hamlet* and *Thrift* (David Day Lewis). Unfortunately, Reeves does not cultivate complexity with the audience. Instead of expatiating on Hamlet's role as the play's avenger, he pursues the plot as an ancient lesson. Director Leon Rosenzweig must take some of the blame for the simplistic interpretation—for the throwing line of the "To be or not to be" passage, for instance, which falls eerily flat.

Throughout, Reeves is overshadowed by several more elegant Shakespearean actors, notably Russell and Robert Berntsen (Polonius). At the end, however, he does take charge in a spectacular fashion. The sword fight is breathtaking. Soberly, Reeves commands the stage with unrelenting focus, leaping and rolling like a true action hero. Finally, in a throw, a Hollywood star on stage, acting for real.

On opening night, the play ran until Feb. 4; the audience scored him a standing ovation. At the reception after the show, when Reeves finally joined the crowd, he spent half an hour patiently signing autographs for a throng of young women who had him trapped in a corner. One fan proudly showed what he had scribbled on her program, "To be or not to be." Amusing.

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What Matters To Canadians

The irony is that one quality is the thing that Knepper Reeves appears to care least about. He does not want to be just a personality. He wants to be Chandler. He wants to perform the difficult roles, the parts that require immense training and great technique—another of which he has. That may be foolhardy, or it may be brave. Since Vancouver casting director Stuart Adams, who worked with Reeves during the *Twilight* years, “has the wonderful sense of wanting to push himself, and he doesn’t have a problem with failure. It’s not a mistake or he fails, there’s something else he can go on to. Whatever else, it’s his quest.”

## FILMS

# Fathers and sons

Two movies celebrate the renegade male



Newman on Oscar-caliber performance

### NOBODY'S FOOL

Directed by Robert Benton

Among Hollywood's leading men, he personifies a singular combination of integrity, charm and unrelenting good looks. Paul Newman, who turns 70 on Jan. 26, is in a class by himself—the only actor of his generation who can still bring high-wattage charisma to a starring role. Like a *Corleone* rising through the twilight of his playing days, he makes the comic look effortless. In *Nobody's Fool*, Newman delivers what may be the most natural and understated performance of his career. Cast as a small-town cannibal who looms secretly, he seems to be playing himself more candidly than ever before. Newman gives a great performance, one infused with a tenderness that deflects the film's harsh sensibility at every turn. It is a perfect mixture that has Oscar written all over it.

After a year in which Hollywood role models have included a cruising bloodsucker (*Interview with the Vampire*), a stoned baseballer (*Play Ball*) and a Thai Thug-eying singleton (*Forever Ganga*), *Nobody's Fool* presents a handsome hero who arrives a cagey companion between cynicism and naïveté when. Adapted from the 1980 Richard Russo

novel by writer-director Robert Benton (*Shogun* and *Crash*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*), the movie tells a whimsical tale of misplaced love between fathers and sons. Sully (Newman) is a 60-year-old construction worker who has run out of love, luck and money. After mauling his lover in a construction accident, he has trouble finding work. He assumes himself by trading with a local contractor, Carl (Dustin Diamond), and openly flirts with Carl's estranged wife, Toby (Michelle Pfeiffer).

Subtly set in his ways, Sully keeps his emotions closely guarded. But a romance with his estranged son, Peter (Dylan Walsh), and a young grandson makes him begin to rethink his grumpy. Peter, an out-of-control professor with a troubled marriage, still resents his father for deserting their family when he was a child. Sully is still haunted by memories of his own reckless upbringing. Meanwhile, Sully's best friend and co-worker, a newly halved painter Bob (Fruitt Taylor-Vine), evokes the neglected man child in everyone.

The narrative is pleasantly successful. Sully keeps avoiding Carl's awkwardness. Carl keeps strutting a back. It is so much comically, with new, now, the Hollywood staff. In fact, with its warty realism, eccentric characters and world rage, *Nobody's Fool* could pass

for a Canadian movie—if it were not for the star's roots.

Newman is a quietly commanding presence, and his grace appears to have rubbed off on everyone around him. An awfully subdued Willy plays the drunk. Griffith seems positively lidded to be cast as a sweet, young lawyer. And Jessica Tandy fills a small but precious role as Miss Bevy, Sully's protective landlady. The relationship between Newman and Tandy has extraordinary resonance. Here are two screen legends passing in the night: Newman, entering his golden age, and Tandy (who died in September), corroborating her own call. "I think God's answer is on me," says Miss Bevy, after a two-inch blacker her husband.

With its idyllic charm and father-son sentiment, *Nobody's Fool* seems too earnest at times. But at the heart of the movie is an exquisite contemplation of mortality. At several points in the story, Newman's character philosophically asks, "I grew up people." The same can be said of the actor himself, who has defined the nation of aging graciously.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

### LEGENDS OF THE FALL

Directed by Edward Zwick

While *Nobody's Fool* promotes rugged individualism with a soft sell approach, *Legends of the Fall* delivers the hard sell version. It, too, is a tale of father-son bonding set in a bygone con-

text of rustic America, another movie that only breaks above intelligence and a winning level of renegade male. But *Legends* is a sweeping epic in the old style, a family saga that spins across three generations. With elements of bodice-ripping romance and Wild West western lore, it is a prosaic-up and down western that settles in the end, ponderous and preposterous. The strong performers, majestic Alberto Sordi and an absorbing narrative make it eminently watchable.

The story, a frontier melodrama, tracks the fortunes of the Ludlow family. Appaled by his government's treatment of Indians, Carl William Ludlow (Anthony Hopkins), a U.S. cavalry cap-

tured, takes the army and builds a ranch in the foothills of the Rockies. After his wife deserts him, he is left to raise their three sons. The eldest, Alfred (Aidan Quinn), is pragmatic and dutiful, while the youngest, Samuel (Jeffrey Thomas), grows into a delicate ideal-

ist. The middle brother, Tristan (Brad Pitt), is the wild card, lured by his father's Cree scout, One Star (Canadian actor Tom Skerritt), he is a daring, daring, but-waiting nature boy with a bowie knife.

Life on the ranch is paradise—until a woman shows up. Susannah (Julia Ormond), a refined English beauty from back East, arrives on Samuel's arm as his bride-to-be. She is instantly enchanted by the West, and by Tristan's noble unsavory—her family may play a decent game of tennis, but Tristan knows how to break a wild mare. (On the open range, metaphors know no bounds.) Before Samuel can seal his romance with marriage, or even his, he drags his two older brothers off to the First World War, leaving Susannah alone with the eldest and his gaudy Indian servants. By the end of the tale, through various twists of fate, all three sons become romantically involved with her.

The movie covers a lot of ground, from the trenches of France to the gangster nature of the Prohibition. In one shaggy subplot, Tristan drags out for several years to ride an *Odyssean* voyage through the South Seas. Along the way, *Legends* runs through a point of proven—bringing the *Lawrence* and *Cracking the Code*. But at heart, it is a western: one that worships the aboriginal spirit of the untamed warrior. The movie is based on a novel by James Van der Zant, who also wrote last year's *Wolf Lake*. Wild's protagonist,

Tristan is played by an animal—a bear—and from then on he seems possessed by a demonic madness.

After cutting his wild-man teeth in *Interview with the Vampire*, Pitt is both credible and compelling as Tristan Hopkins, as usual, downplays his scenes with veracious energy. And in the women in a man's world, Ormond winks wistfully with an understated role. Film-maker Edward Zwick, however, directs with a heavy hand. *Legends*, like his 1989 civil war drama, *Glory*, is over-the-top. What a remarkable it is that hyperbole drama should come from Zwick and producer Marshall Herskovitz, who have re-

defined dramatic realism with their TV dramas, *Boyz n the City* and *My So-Called Life*. The big screen, it seems, is reserved for more naive advocates.

B. D. J.



Pitt playing a noble savage

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VALUES



# Situation normal: nothing makes sense

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

**A**nyone with any sense at all knows there is no sense in the world. It is a measure of maturity, of adult hood, a mark of growing up, to realize there is no sense to anything.

The latest proof of this—of many proofs—is the speculation that the U.S. Supreme Court of lawyers in law circles will lose their defense in the upcoming trial on the chair he was a battered husband.

You, prolific reader, will laugh of course. But a jury in the state city law year did not. After one Moon Moonson admitted he beat his wife to death with a wrench in 1993, he was charged with first-degree murder. But the jury accepted his lawyer's argument that Moonson was a victim of the "battered husband syndrome."

His wife never hit him, but often insulted him, he slept on the floor, worked in his wife's store for \$1.75 a day, cleaned the house and cooked. The 55-year old Moon was found guilty of the lesser charge of manslaughter and he may be out of the state after just four years.

So to not laugh. Nothing makes sense. Especially when the Prime Minister of Canada, who in Quebec, can't seem to figure out what to say while the Quebec government thinks it can declare a unilateral declaration of independence while keeping Canadian passports and the Canadian dollar that has on its front the picture of a queen from across one of our three oceans.

This is almost as good as the American ambassador to Canada, one James Blanchard, who says that a list of potential Canadian targets is being drawn up for retaliation in the cultural trade disputes between Canada and the United States. His country, which influences our TV screens, magazine stands, bookstores, movie theatres and record industry, is terribly disturbed—it seems being threatened—because the CDC has renewed an American country music show from Canada while everyone in favor of a Canadian country channel and Ottawa is putting a heavy tax on the lake



Sports Illustrated Canada edition

Never has the elephant been so bullied or chased by the mouse. This, of course, was what NAFTA was supposed to be all about—peace and goodwill and harmony across the world's longest undefended border. What region is now considered, we are told, Canada far and far out, newspapers, magazines, movies, live plays and all-night sports events—worth \$18 billion in all—so potential targets by U.S. officials. Lucky for the dead pigs.

This would be the same lovely NAFTA, not unity, sold to us by a political party that now has two (2) MPs in Ottawa, that told us our new partner Mexico was no longer a Third World country—someone to anyone who has ever visited there—and suddenly has seen the sham exposed as the peso soared into the dumpster.

As the insanity in Chechnya proceeds,

Baron Yehuda Margalit has his own grave, the new Republican governor of New York has skipped corrected letter Thomas Grasso to Oklahoma, since New York state has no death penalty, Grasso's death by injection could be carried out within weeks. Illness for evolution.

The best female tennis player on the globe, Monica Seles, has never returned to the court since a massacre in Germany in 1993 embittered her at a tournament and a judge decided he didn't need being locked up for a serious period. The new music star, Jennifer Capriati, dropped off the tour to have a "senior" senior year of high school and, surprise, was arrested for marijuana possession.

The brilliant brain surgeons who run the National Hockey League, given the opportunity of a baseball strike that would allow the NHL the opening for a television contract that would sell the sport in the United States, a pitted millionaires players against greedy billionaire owners in a scenario that scared anyone who could remember how Schiavone's Apperly had done.

Newton Garza, who seems to have replaced Bill Clinton as the boss of the United States because he was elected on a "family values" ticket, is revealed as possessing his wife with divorce papers while she was in hospital recovering from a bout with cancer and then getting into trouble with alimony payments.

In the tangled surrounding Lucien Boissard, we see the absence of his true self, cutting influence and Jacques Parizeau seems to be increasingly erratic in his decisions to destroy a country that international bankers find the most lucrative false prospect of all.

No one has yet figured out why Time magazine named the Pope Man of the Year, was of the more puzzling decisions since. Andrew Aronow decided to cut all his grasp locks to place his new Zednik, Brooke Shields. The royal continue to amaze, if not to bore, Cecilia Parler Fowler's cuckolded husband now known as "the man who had down his wife for his country."

Nothing makes sense in the first month of the new year as sport comes to become but having moved to the business pages, and bank presidents try to patch to us about resistant while they rob the treasury and apply for tax rebates.

There is no shortage of the nonsense, with plenty more to come. There are 11 months left. Wait for it.

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